Hafa Adai!

For first time in Rota history, 6 running for mayor. PAGE 3

Man who faces federal charges in the CNMI arrested in Wisconsin. PAGE 29

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Palacios is discharged from ICU

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has been discharged from the Intensive care Unit of the Queens Healthcare Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he has been confined since being medically transferred there last June 3.

According to a press statement from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Palacios is now out of the ICU and has been released to a primary care physician for outpatient care.

"I feel great and everything is fine but I still have tests this week and next. We need to make sure these things don't happen again," said the 66-year-old Palacios, as quoted in the news release.

Two-and-a half weeks after his "medical event" at the Superior Court last May 31, Palacios said he feels much better and looks forward to getting back home and working again.

The lieutenant governor remains optimistic that he will

See PALACIOS on Page 4

Free veterinary services in next 2 weeks

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Great news for pet owners waiting for veterinary services for their beloved pets: Starting tomorrow, Saturday, June 18, until Thursday, June 30, free spaying and neutering services will be available at the Saipan Cares for Animals clinic and free vaccines will be available at the Gualo Rai Youth Center.

Saipan Cares for Animals, Boonie Babies Rescue, and the Gualo Rai Youth Center are partnering up with the U.S. Army's 445th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services Support for the veterinary mission that will make available free neutering and spaying services for two weeks only.

The service is a first come first serve basis and available only while supplies last.

For tomorrow until Saturday, June 25, the drop off time

See FREE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
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- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Gas nears $7 mark

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With fuel prices now at $6.56, Saipan is steadily creeping toward the $7 mark, following back-to-back fuel increases in the past month alone.

Late Wednesday afternoon, oil companies on Saipan raised their prices again by another 15 cents. Both Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas now charge $6.56 per gallon for their regular fuel from $6.41 per gallon. Mobil's Supreme Fuel is now $7.01 while diesel also went up, with its price now at $7.48.

Oil companies have been raising their prices by 15-cent increments since April. Prior to Wednesday's increase, oil companies across Saipan raised prices by 15 cents in the first week of June. Before that, they went up by 15 cents on May 20.

The steepest gas price increase the CNMI has seen in the past few months was back on April 20, when local oil companies increased their prices by 20 cents, bringing regular fuel prices up to $5.96 a gallon.

The CNMI saw its first fuel increase of the year back on Jan. 5, when local oil companies raised prices of regular fuel to $4.96, followed by a string of increases that reached an all-

See GAS on Page 4

Fuel continues to grow more expensive, with local oil companies raising their prices by another 15 cents late last Wednesday.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

INSIDE

LOCAL
U.S. Army Reserve Col. Alejandro "Alex" L Buniag Jr. graduates from the Air War College.

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SUPPLEMENT
Today's issue comes with a supplement, marking the start of the Pacific Mini Games 2022.

PAGE 13

LOCAL
Attorney General Edward Manibusan joins a coalition of 31 attorneys general against vaping.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

Administrative leave OK'd for non-critical employees

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres authorized yesterday all non-critical employees of the Commonwealth government to take an administrative leave starting at 12pm today, Friday, which is the start of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

In his memorandum to all department and activity heads, Torres said the administrative leave is needed as the people of the CNMI come together to finalize preparations, welcome athletes, and begin the NMPMG.

Torres

Last Friday, the governor disclosed that he granted administrative leave to all government employees who are athletes, coaches, or part of the NMPMG organizational committee.

Torres said yesterday that the CNMI has truly shown its perseverance by rising up to the challenge to host the NMPMG despite setbacks caused by the super typhoons the Commonwealth has faced, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These Games, especially in these times, represent the best of humanity and our need to come together, to cheer each other on, to strive to do our best, to test the limits of our abilities, and break down barriers," he said.

Over the past year, CNMI government departments and agencies, in partnership with the NMPMG Organizing Committee, have and continue to play their part in preparation to host the quadrennial event.

"From ensuring that we showcase our incredible hospitality and beautiful cultures to carrying out the many tasks associated with holding the sporting events and attending to the needs associated with the athletes, officials, and activities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous hard work and dedication to making sure that the first Pacific Mini Games that the CNMI has ever hosted will be a success!" Torres said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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FOR FIRST TIME IN ROTA HISTORY

Six running for mayor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time in Rota history, six individuals are running for mayor in the Nov. 8 general elections.

"This is historic for the first senatorial district to have six mayoral candidates," according to Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) yesterday.

Santos, who is one of those running for Rota mayor, said a six-way race would give the electorate more options or choices to elect among those seeking the mayoral position.

Saipan Tribune learned that aside from Santos, five others are running for mayor—Aubrey Hocog, Magdalena Mesngon, Harry Masga, Rodney Taisacan, and Alfred Taimanao.

Hocog is the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board chair woman. She is currently working for the Rota Mayor's Office where she coordinates activities and/or programs.

Mesngon is currently a Head Start teacher. She previously served as director for Rota's Community and Cultural Affairs.

Masga is employed by the Rota office of U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Taisacan is a former Commonwealth Ports Authority seaport director.

Taimanao is a U.S. Army veteran.

Santos is running as an independent, while Hocog is running under the Republican Party. It's not clear yet who is the Democratic Party's bet for Rota mayor.

In the 2018 elections, Rota Mayor Efrain M. Atalig was re-elected in a five-way mayoral race. It was learned that Atalig intends to run as a senator this November.

Court dismisses case vs man accused of sexually abusing an 8-year-old boy

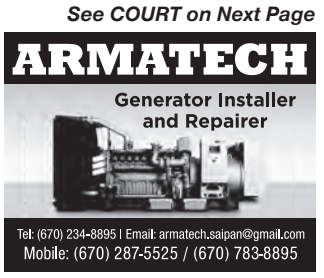
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has dismissed without prejudice, the case filed against a man who is being accused of sexually abusing an 8-year-old boy.

During a preliminary hearing for Christian Harrys Manuel last Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho found no probable cause to believe that the defendant committed five counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Because of this, the court dismissed the case without prejudice, meaning the government can re-file the case if or when there is additional information or evidence.

See COURT on Next Page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The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

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FREE

From Page 1

at the SCA Clinic in Middle Road will be at 8:30am. The spaying and neutering service will last until 12pm only. U.S. Army veterinarians will assist SCA with free spay and neuter services for up to 10 dogs and cats each day.

They won't be providing free services on Sunday, June 26.

The following week from Monday, June 27, to Thursday, June 30, the services will be full days from 9am to 12pm and then from 1pm to 4pm again, with Thursday as their last day.

Drop off time in the morning is at 8:30am and the drop off time for the afternoon shift is at 12pm.

Along with the free spay and neuter service, free vaccinations will be provided at the Gualo Rai Youth Center. On Monday, June 20, to Saturday, June 25, it will be from 1pm to 4pm. They will be closed on Sunday, June 26. They will resume again on Monday, June 27, to Friday, June 30, from 1pm to 4pm.

According to SCA director Beth Pliscou, the Army veterinarians will use their equipment but they will be bringing in their "oxygen which is pretty expensive when you're doing a lot of surgery and they'll pay for the anesthesia. And then they're bringing a lot of things that we use for surgery. The labor is free, of course, us and the vets."

Pliscou said that pet owners may drop off their pets in the morning and they will be kept in kennels provided by the nonprofit Boonie Babies Rescue and other kennels that were purchased by SCA.

"This is a trial run. …It takes a year, really, to get something like this, to get all the stuff shipped here and everything like that set in motion. …So this is a little one this year and then by next summer, they want to do it every year in the summer and go to a community center and really set up an assembly line," added Pliscou.

The veterinary unit is composed of medical experts from the U.S. Army Reserve and the 807th Medical Command based in Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City, Utah, which arrived yesterday and met with SCA to finalize the schedule of services.

Special assistant Glenna Palacios of the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, which is also helping this effort, said the bureau is tapping into U.S. Department of Defense programs that provide mutual benefits to the military and the community.

LTC Brian Collins, commanding officer of the 445th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services, said: "The 445th Veterinary Services is proud to be a part of this community effort… and we look forward to getting to know the people and their pets, and enjoying the hospitality that Saipan offers," he added.

Separately, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said: "I would like to thank…the 445th MDVS Veterinary Team for providing this service to our community. … Thank you for bringing this critical service to our island and for making it available to our community at no cost."

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From Page 3

information or evidence.

Camacho further explained in his order that the testimony of detective Anthony Santos, the government's only witness, raised reasonable suspicion that the allegations against Manuel should be further investigated.

"However, reasonable suspicion is a lower standard than probable cause. Probable cause is required to make an arrest. The government has the burden to show that probable cause exists that a crime has been committed and the defendant committed the crime. At its core, the only substantive information to the current allegations that was testified to in court is: allegations that fellatio may have happened sometime within the past six years. No other corroborating information is available at this time. Therefore, there is reasonable suspicion to continue to conduct further investigation. The court dismisses the charges without prejudice, meaning that the government can bring charges if or when they are able to obtain more evidence," he said.

Camacho noted that, according to the guardian of the minor, the child said the defendant was the one who downloaded the pornographic material to his tablet. However, this could not be corroborated because the tablet was erased/cleaned by the guardian.

"The 'pornographic materials' could have been used to establish a timeline," he said.

Also, Camacho said, the police did not see the pornographic material, or even see and take the tablet into custody as evidence.

"No attempt was made to try to retrieve the data to corroborate any timeline," he said.

In addition, Camacho stated that the child said that Manuel had the child perform fellatio. However, the child did not give any other details other than the vague allegation of fellatio and the police did not obtain any other details to, at the very least, make a physical collaboration.

Furthermore, Camacho said, no medical or other scientific test was taken or conducted as part of the police investigation.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Manuel was arrested last April on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace. The initial complaint to the Department of Public Safety was made by the Division of Youth Services last April 25, after the child's legal guardian made the allegation.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

return to the CNMI in the next couple of weeks or so.

He and his wife, Wella, thanked the community for their continued prayers and support.

Palacios' office will continue to provide updates of his medical condition as they become available.

Last May 31, Palacios was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center after he collapsed during a break while giving testimony in the criminal case against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the Superior Court. Three days later, he was transported from Saipan to Honolulu via military aircraft for additional testing and treatment.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor then stated that Palacios was experiencing pain in his lower back.

Palacios, a Republican, is running for governor in the Nov. 8 general elections as an independent candidate, with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as his running mate.

GAS

From Page 1

time-high of $6.06 per gallon of regular fuel in March.

The CNMI then finally saw its first gas rollback in mid-March, with oil companies bringing regular fuel down to $5.86. The rollback was followed by yet another increase at the end of March with fuel going back up to $6.01.

A local gas attendant believes that, if the CNMI continues to follow this trend, fuel could possibly surpass the $7 mark sometime in July.

"We don't know when increases or rollbacks happen. We usually just get word on the day of. However, at this rate, if gas continues to rise 15 cents every other week, we could go past that $7 mark somewhere in July," she said.

A local student who just got her driver's license said it seems like a bad time to be driving.

"I just got my license like a few months ago and there's been back-to-back fuel increase. I think this is the worst time to be driving because fuel is very costly right now," she said.

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‘HLB 22-28 will save the e-gaming industry on Saipan’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bartley A. Jackson, general manager of MP Holdings LLC, told the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Gaming Committee Wednesday that the proposed amendment to the CNMI’s e-gaming law is a well thought out bill as it will save the e-gaming industry on Saipan.

“It will bring in more revenue for Saipan,” Jackson said.

MP Holdings owns the Saipan Vegas game room.

Jackson said that both MP Holdings and Mariana Entertainment, which owns another game room, Club 88, support the passage of H.L.B. 22-28 to amend Saipan Local Law 22-6 and restructure the local license fee imposed on all electronic gaming devices located within Saipan.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) is the author of both Saipan Local Law 22-6 and H.L. B. 22-28.

Jackson said the proposed amendment is the product of private businesses and the government putting their heads together to solve a problem.

Electronic gaming was legalized in the CNMI in 2013. MP Holdings and Mariana Entertainment are the only two companies involved in the operation of electronic gaming businesses on Saipan.

For the e-gaming industry in the CNMI, operators pay a license fee for each e-gaming machine in the amount of $2,500 per machine, or 15% of gross revenue obtained through the use of the machines, whichever is higher. Jackson said this is in addition to the regular taxes in a per facility annual license fee of $100,000.

Jackson disclosed that over the last six months or so, the operators have met with the SNILD multiple times to discuss their businesses and the effect of Saipan Local Law 22-6 on them.

He said the SNILD has also explained that the goal has been to raise funds for education and other purposes.

He said the operators are members of the community and fully support the intent of the law. Jackson said the amendment to Local Law 22-6 will enable the operators to continue their business.

He said fees will be increased and this will benefit the community. Jackson said the increase in fees, however, will be manageable for the operators.

“Without the amendment, the operators likely will close and rather than raising more funds there will be a loss of revenue that Saipan needs but will not cost the operators their business,” he said.

Jackson said the first change in the law is to strike out poker amusement machines located in the same e-gaming premises, specifically in enclosed area or resort premises. He said the effect of this is to apply the new law only to e-gaming machines as poker machines are licensed separately and the new law will be focused on e-gaming.

Jackson said this amendment avoids conflict with other laws and focuses on the Act.

He said the second change is to strike out the amount required by Commonwealth law and shall subsequently adjust to be equal to the amount addressed by Commonwealth law without further legislative action.

“What this deletion does is allow the new Act to stand alone. Without it, other laws are incorporated. This might be contrary to the desires of SNILD,” he pointed out.

He said the amendment then adds a unique progressive fee structure for fees. Jackson said the license fees increase as the more machines and enterprise has.

He said the progressive fee structure means that as the business grow, Saipan benefits with more and more fees.

Jackson said the final addition reads that the rate set are for all of the electronic gaming machines of the business.

He said businesses that grow and have more machines and move into a higher tier will pay a higher license fee for all of their machines at the higher tier rate.

“When the economy contracts such as after a severe typhoon or another pandemic, fees go down in proportion to the reduction of machines of the businesses. This is a very fair fee structure,” he added.

Yumul stated in the legislation that by structuring the license fee to increase based on the total number of machines operated in the business, the collection of more revenue without overburdening the e-gaming business is possible.

The SNILD Gaming Committee chaired by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) approved some amendments to the bill offered by Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan).

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MAYOR OF SAIPAN AND STAFF

Buniag obtains his master's degree at Air War College

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

U.S. Army Reserve Col. Alejandro "Alex" L Buniag Jr., who was born and raised on Saipan but now lives in Guam, graduated from Resident Senior Service College at the Air War College, Air University at the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama last May 19.

Buniag graduated with a master's degree in Strategic Studies and achieved Joint Professional Military Education Phase II (JPME II).

Prior to his graduation, he was promoted to colonel in the Army just this year on Jan. 13 at the Air War College as well.

The Air War College resident program class membership includes officers from the U.S. Navy, Marines, Army, and Air Force, civilian employees of federal government agencies, and officers from the international community and prepare them to serve as critical and strategic thinkers able to serve as national security senior leaders when they graduate.

Selection for Resident Senior Service College is highly competitive. Buniag was one of six Army Reserve Officers selected to attend the Air War College.

Buniag has 22 years of service with the U.S. Army, with his next assignment as Officer in Charge, U.S. Army Pacific, Army Coordination Element-Guam.

Buniag is currently a full-time employee of Andersen Elementary School, which is located at the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. At the school, Buniag is an educational technologist.

He is the son of Alejandro Sr. and Angelita Buniag and is married to Amanda Moore Buniag. He graduated from the University of Guam where he received his commission from the Army ROTC program in December 2001.

Buniag was born and raised on Saipan and grew up in Chalan Piao. He graduated from Grace Christian Academy in 1997.

Col. Alejandro "Alex" L Buniag Jr. graduates from Resident Senior Service College at the Air War College, Air University at the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Fun Saipan Mariana Corporation, a CNMI corporation was dissolved on May 24, 2022. Creditors and persons with an outstanding claims against the Company is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

Fun Saipan Mariana Corporation
PMB 123, Box 10005,
Saipan, MP 96920

Saipan son returns to compete in weightlifting

A recent graduate of the U.S. Air Force has returned to the islands so he could compete for the CNMI's weightlifting team for the Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Lowell Ladringan Cristobal, 23, who is a member of the Class of 2022 of the U.S. Air Force Academy, arrived on Saipan last June 9, 2022, solely so he could join the CNMI's weightlifting team and represent the islands at the Mini Games.

Since arriving on island, Cristobal has practiced a few times with his weightlifting team members and he said he feels ready and excited. Aside from competing itself, Cristobal said he is excited to see the variety of skills out there and he feels ready to compete and he expects to do his best for his team. He said he feels confident about his chances and, whether anyone wins a medal or whether it's a gold, silver, or bronze, he just wishes everyone to do their best. "I wish everyone good luck in their games," he added.

Cristobal

An alumnus of Marianas High School, where he graduated in 2016, Cristobal is the son of Leonardo Sr. and Ana Marie Cristobal.

Soon after high school, Cristobal enlisted in the Air Force for two years before he got accepted into the Air Force Academy in 2018. It was at the academy where he said he started a weightlifting club. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy on May 25, 2022, with a bachelor of science degree in Behavioral Sciences; he entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer and second lieutenant.

Aside from weightlifting Cristobal also shines in his military career, having received the top former regular enlisted graduate award, and the Horner Award with the highest class honors.

Cristobal will soon start training as an Air Battle manager in Florida after the Mini Games. ***(Angel Li)***

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Your 2021 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2021 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to https://www.cucgov.org/spn2021
For Tinian, go to https://www.cucgov.org/tin2021
For Rota, go to https://www.cucgov.org/rota2021

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóómw 2021 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráágh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóómw schaal llól ráághil 2021 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/spn2021
Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/tin2021
Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/rota2021

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÅLIDÅT HÅNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2021 na Ripot nu i Kuålidåt Hånom i CUC managuahayi på´gu giya on-line! På´gu na såkkan, in na´guahayi siparåo na ripot para kada´ isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottånti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuålidåt put i Hånom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan håfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda´ gi hålum i hånom-mu gi durántin 2021 na såkkan para un ke´tungu´ más put i hånom ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/spn2021
Para Tinian, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/tin2021
Para Luta, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/rota2021

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matranslåda, ya malagu´ håo kumuentusi håyi put i ripot pat malagu´ håo kopian påppit u ma´entrega pat ma-email guatu para hågu, put fabot hågan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

Congratulations
on your accomplishments
2nd Lt. Leowell Ladringan Cristobal

Wishing you all the best as you compete to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 (Weightlifting)

Your family is so proud of you.
Leonardo Cristobal, Sr. (Father),
Ana Marie Ladringan Cristobal (Mother)
Siblings: Liezel, Leonardo Jr., and Leana

Thank you Dads, for all that you do

Happy Father's Day

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FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF

Joeten Motors
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NISSAN HONDA Ford KIA YAMAHA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

At last, a bipartisan effort on gun safety

For too long, a bipartisan, commonsense agreement to fix America's broken gun laws has seemed out of reach. A new effort in Congress offers reasons for optimism.

In the wake of multiple mass shootings this year—including the slaughter of 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, last month—Sens. Chris Murphy and John Cornyn have reached a tentative bipartisan agreement on the first significant national gun reform in many years. It won't please everyone, of course. But there's no doubt it represents progress.

Although negotiations continue, the broad outlines are clear. Crucially, the framework would close the so-called boyfriend loophole, ensuring that domestic-violence records are more widely included in background checks. It would allow for some sealed juvenile records to be available for similar purposes, while boosting penalties for crimes such as straw purchases and gun trafficking. It would also boost funding for mental-health programs and for improving security at schools.

Perhaps most important, it would create federal incentives for states to enact so-called red-flag laws, which allow courts to temporarily ban individuals from purchasing or possessing firearms if a judge determines that they're a threat to themselves or others. Such laws are relatively new. But early evidence—and common sense—suggest that they're likely to be an effective tool in stopping mass shooters, most of whom exhibit clear warning signs before they kill. One study looked at 21 red-flag orders issued against individuals in California who had made explicit shooting threats; no violence was subsequently attributed to any of them.

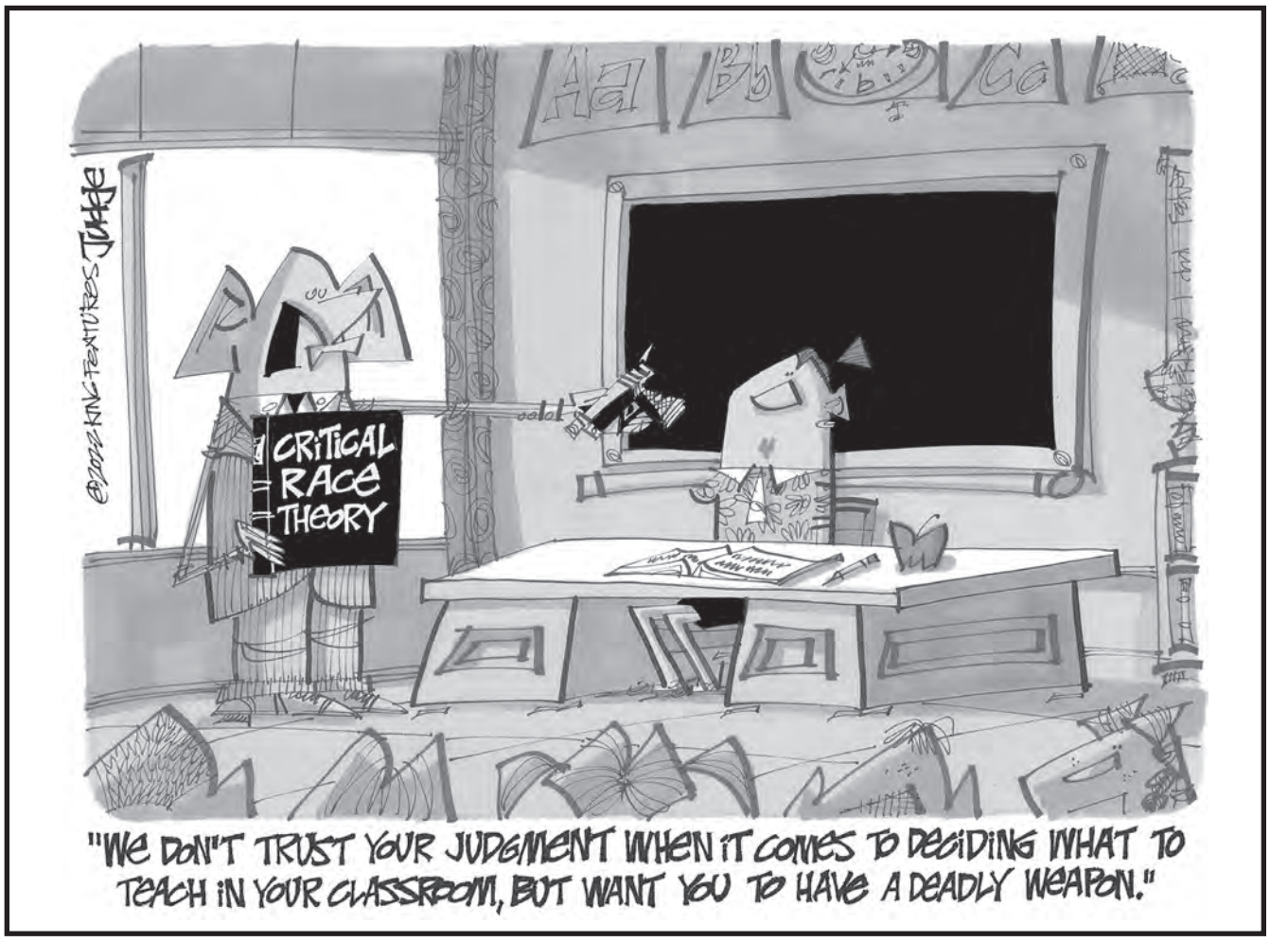
(Everytown for Gun Safety, which advocates gun reform measures, is backed by Michael Bloomberg, founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP.)

It's true that this effort falls short of the reforms that President Joe Biden outlined in a recent prime-time address, which included bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and a repeal of gun manufacturers' liability protection. It also doesn't go as far as a package passed by the House last week, which would (among other things) raise the minimum age for purchasing certain rifles to 21 from 18. And there's no shortage of other reforms that could help impose sanity on America's gun culture.

But something is better than nothing, which is essentially what the country has gotten in the decade since 20 other children were murdered by a deranged gunman in Newtown, Connecticut. Many thought that slaughter would be a turning point—an act so horrifying that Americans would finally come to their senses on guns. Instead, a much-hyped reform effort in Congress failed within months of the shooting. About two-thirds of the relevant state laws passed from 2012 to 2018 actually loosened gun restrictions. Meanwhile, hundreds more people have been murdered in additional mass shootings.

That carnage can never become acceptable to Americans. Should this deal advance, it ought to be seen as a starting point for wider change. A more comprehensive background-check

See AT LAST on Next Page


CRITICAL RACE THEORY
"WE DON'T TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT WHEN IT COMES TO DECIDING WHAT TO TEACH IN YOUR CLASSROOM, BUT WANT YOU TO HAVE A DEADLY WEAPON."

Assault rifles should be restricted to the military. Period

By STEVEN P. GROSSMAN
The Baltimore Sun

Steven P. Grossman is Dean Julius Isaacson Professor Emeritus at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Some of you may remember the disastrous years between 1994 and 2004. During that period assault rifles like the AR-15 were outlawed nationally. Absent the availability of these guns for hunting, deer, moose and other animals were running rampant through streets in many cities. Because these weapons could no longer be used for self-defense, criminals felt vastly freer to commit all sorts of crimes. As the NRA and other gun rights groups and politicians predicted, the Second Amendment's protection of the right to bear arms was just about eviscerated. That is why around the turn of the 21st century almost nobody in the U.S. was allowed to possess guns of any kind.

You don't recall that? Perhaps it is because none of those things, except the ban on assault weapons, actually happened.

They did not happen, primarily, for two reasons. Assault weapons are almost never used for hunting or in self- defense against a criminal. The second reason was because, as with most predictions from the NRA and like-minded groups and individuals, these projections were at best wrong and at worst calamitous.

Those of a certain age might recall the NRA argument that the best way to reduce crime was not to limit the amount and types of guns in circulation, but to produce and sell more and more guns. By selling guns to "good people," the thinking went, we would be deterring bad people from committing crimes. So how has that worked out? Almost anyone has or can purchase the gun of his choice now—perhaps not at a gun store (although most people can), but at a gun show, having someone else buy it for you or purchasing and making a ghost gun at home. It is estimated that there are about 400 million guns in private hands in the U.S., whose population is about 330 million. That is more than one gun per person and assuming that children under 5 are unlikely to own them (even in Texas), it is clear that many people have a personal arsenal to choose from.

We hear that there is no specific definition of an assault weapon and any ban of them would be only partially effective. That is worthy of discussion, but we never hear the other side: Why should we allow guns capable of such mass murder at all? What purpose do they serve? It is argued that some like the weapons for sport. But we have seen another purpose. The AR-15 seems to be the weapon of choice for the mass murderer. No surprise there, because of the weapon's ability to fire off many rounds very fast. It is a weapon of war, and its use should be restricted to the military. Perhaps we can ask those who use the weapon for sport to use a different weapon, if banning this one can save innocent lives.

The right-to-bear-arms Second Amendment suffered no significant damage when assault weapons were banned three decades ago. The government did not take away assault guns that were purchased before the ban. Much like the First Amendment's protection of freedom of speech, the second amendment is not absolute. In fact, in the most pro-gun case decided by the Supreme Court, justices made clear that reasonable limitations on gun possession and use are consistent with constitutional protections.

What can be more reasonable than outlawing the sale of a weapon that has little valid purpose and, as we have seen lately, causes so much human destruction? Why would anyone need a magazine that can hold 30 rounds or be altered to hold 100 rounds, enabling repeat firing without needing to be reloaded? We understand it for the military, and we understand it for the mass murderer, but what proper role is there for civilians to have such high powered weapons?

What often goes unspoken, but is very real, especially among anti-government groups, is the notion that these weapons are needed to protect against government tyranny. But what does this mean in practice? Is it that if the police or some other government agents come to seize a person or property, the proper way to oppose the government should come from the barrel of a semi-automatic weapon and not the courts? We are a government of laws, and, as difficult as it is at times, we rely upon those laws for what we can and cannot do.

Is it not possible to get by as a nation with only the 400 million guns we have now? The U.S. has, by far, more guns per capita than any nation in the world. Republicans say that the days after a gun tragedy is the wrong time to discuss weapons limitations. The problem is that there are so many such tragedies these days, there is no period of time between them.

No weapons limitation will prevent all tragedies like those at Parkland, Sandy Hook, Buffalo, El Paso and Uvalde, but let us at least have the courage to try to prevent some of them.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Taste of the Marianas welcomes all NMPMG 2022 athletes

During the early planning stage of the Taste of the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority aimed to host it every Saturday in May as we usually do. However, 2022 is an extra special year as the Marianas is hosting the first-ever Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022! After several meetings with the NMPMG Organizing Committee, MVA agreed to plan the Taste of the Marianas to coincide with the Pacific Mini Games to welcome the athletes, officials, and families arriving from 20 different countries.

This year's festival will be held from 5pm to 10pm on June 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26 at the Garapan Fishing Base. The MVA is welcoming many first-time vendors, which is exciting. A total of 29 food and beverage and arts and crafts vendors are exhibiting each night. On Sunday, June 25, the event will feature a food demonstration at 6pm. The MVA invites everyone to come and try the diverse offering of food that will be presented.

The MVA have four spectacular contests planned: The Marianas Jr. Chef Challenge, Kadun Pika Cooking Contest, Eskabeche Cooking Contest, and the Sukiyaki Eating Contest. The top four winners of each contest will win cash prizes: $500 for first place, $250 for second place, $150 for third place, and $100 for fourth place.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

We are all in for a cultural treat this year. Thirty groups are lined up to perform during the festival. The MVA welcomes everyone to enjoy our free photobooths and take a souvenir home to remember this unforgettable event!

Be sure to take a stroll along Garapan Fishing Base to see the newly unveiled Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Marianas Village Flags that were designed and inspired by our Public School System students! GCEA, through the Marianas Village Pride campaign, produced 35 village flags for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Take a picture with your village's flag and be the first to post about it! We are very proud of our students and congratulate them on their accomplishments. The MVA is also hoping to display all 20 country flags to honor the NMPMG 2022 participants.

As we continue to celebrate how far we've come as a community, let's join together and spread the *Håfa Adai* and *Tirow* spirit to welcome all our visitors.

The MVA thanks our valued sponsors who have made this event possible: Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Dave Electrons Center, IT&E, Hawaiian Rock Products, New X.O. Market, Century Hotel, Best Deal, Est Rental, Johnny's Bar and Grill, and Bistro Marianas!

One of the Kadun Pika Cook-off entries at the 21st Annual Taste of tThe Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2019, at American Memorial Park, Saipan. The 23rd Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan on June 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26, 2022.

MVA

We also recognize the support of the Office of the Governor, the Saipan Mayor's Office and our government agencies: the Department of Public Lands, the Department of Public Safety, Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Division of Customs Services and Border Patrol, the Division of Coastal Resources Management, the Zoning Office, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Bureau of Environmental Health, the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the Department of Homeland Security!

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MARTIN DUENAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Martin Duenas is the Marianas Visitors Authority's Community Projects Division manager and actin g Product Development manager and has served at MVA for more than 31 years. Martin was recognized as one of the longest-serving employees and was awarded MVA's Leadership Award on May 5, 2022.

MVA's beautification efforts

Gearing up to welcome visitors to the NMPMG 2022, the resumption of the Japan market, and the continuous welcoming of Korean tourists, MVA has been sprucing up local tourist spots such as Bird Island, Banzai Cliff, and the Paseo de Marianas. We would not have been able to get these places clean and fixed without the help and the support of the Department of Corrections.

We started this partnership with DOC during COVID-19, and DOC has been very generous in helping us with our beautification efforts. Recently, DOC has been up at Bird Island fixing the railings that have been damaged. They will soon make their way to Banzai Cliff to fix more rails. We've also completed water blasting, cleaning up, and removing garbage from PDM. We thank all of our volunteers for making the Marianas a better place to live! Together, We Can!

I'd like to also give thanks to the Kinpachi Resaurant, PDM Promoters, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Parks and Recreation, our 22nd House of Representatives: Rep. Celina Babauta, Rep. Donald Manglona, Rep. Edwin Propst, Rep. Tina Sablan, Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao, Rep. Ralph Yumul, Rep. Denita Yangetmai, Rep. Corina Magofna, Rep. Joel Camacho, and Rep. Leila Staffler, Sen. Edith DeLeon Guerrero and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan for helping us spruce up PDM!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Juneteenth celebration

On behalf of the African-American community of America, it is my pleasure, my honor, and my duty to host this year's Juneteenth memorial celebration recognizing the liberation of Africans from slavery in America that is now a national holiday. While CNMI governors have sponsored and even participated in events for other federal holidays, there has never been an event sponsored by the government for Martin Luther King Day nor Juneteenth. I can still remember Dr. King once challenging me and other members of SNCC in the civil rights movement by asking us: "If not you, then who, and if not now, then when," so I decided that someone must do something to start celebrating Juneteenth and MLK Day. Juneteenth is not just a day for African-Americans to celebrate but for all Americans who appreciate the plethora of contributions to our nation by slaves and African-Americans.

The liberation of Africans from slavery was just the first step in the long egregiously difficult climb to the mountaintop of equality where all men/women in America will arrive at the "valley of freedom and equality." Just being free obviously doesn't mean the former African slaves were equal as we had to first overcome the "separate-but-equal" racist doctrine and it is still a battle to tear down the walls, barriers and even laws that promote and defend white racial superiority and control of the electorate. We went from being called jungle-bunnies to niggers to negros to blacks and, finally, African Americans. It has been only in the past 50 years that we finally got the formal title of being recognized as African-Americans. But I think America and the world can now see in living color that racism is still alive and well in America with white supremacy ideologists and their insurrection on the Capitol, the manipulation of voting laws to favor white jerrymandered districts, and even terroristic attacks in churches and schools against people-of-color being even more pronounced and more disruptive to our society than ever since the Civil War era.

I do want to especially thank Rep. Tina Sablan for donating the tent, Dr. John Joyner, attorney Joe Hill for helping me with organizing this celebration, as I couldn't have done it without them. This year's celebration will be held on this Sunday, June 19, at the area across from the courts and DPS on the beach side called "Seng Song" between the last two huts to the south. People will start gathering at 12pm with short remarks and a sharing session by anyone who wants to share their story related to slavery and reconstruction, followed by eating! The event is a soul food and local food potluck gathering as everyone is invited and please bring your own beach chairs. There will be some great food, horseshoes, dominos, and playing-card games, so please come and help us with this Juneteenth celebration. Thank you and please feel free to contact me for more information, as I'm in the phone book.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

AT LAST

From Page 10

overhaul should be next. Strengthening concealed-carry permitting requirements and secure-storage laws must remain a priority. So should extending red-flag measures to every state. Biden should also continue to work to get a new ATF director in place.

Although plenty of work remains, every step forward in Congress, however small, should be welcomed. The fight goes on.

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Initiative filed to make the CNMI public auditor an elected position

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) has introduced an initiative that would make the CNMI's public auditor an elective position.

Magofna's House Legislative Initiative 22-2 proposes to amend Article 3, Section 12 of the CNMI Constitution in order to remove the governor's authority to appoint a public auditor.

The initiative proposes that the public auditor shall be elected by the voters in a midterm election and shall serve a term of four years.

Magofna stated in the initiative that the Office of the Public Auditor is charged with the task of proactively preventing the squandering of public funds.

Magofna said OPA should be free of political influence or interference. She said the present system allows the governor appointing discretion of the public auditor and further requiring such a candidate to acquire the successful advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives.

"Such established practice may create a compromising environment in which individuals with weak mental faculty inevitably succumb to pressures from undue political influence," the lawmaker said.

This, she added, eventually leads to potential suppression of findings, subsequent delays in the proper prosecution in cases of theft, covering up infractions made by political cronies, or purposely circumventing established procurement policies, among other things.

H.L.I. 22-2 prohibits anyone from serving more than two consecutive terms as public auditor. The public auditor shall receive a salary of $100,000 per year.

Under the initiative, no candidate for the position of public auditor shall declare a political party affiliation. No candidate for the position shall seek the endorsement or receive directly or indirectly financial or material support from a political party.

If no candidate receives more than half of the total votes cast for public auditor, on the 14th day after the Board of Election's certification of election results, a runoff election shall be conducted among the candidates that received the highest and second highest number of votes.

The initiative proposes, among other things, that the public auditor shall be at least 35 years old, and must either be a certified public accountant, or an attorney licensed to practice in the CNMI, or have at least five years of experience in the establishment and enactment of government budgets.

The Office of the Public Auditor shall receive an annual budget equaling at a minimum .01% of the budget of the CNMI government.

Kina B. Peter, the first female public auditor of the CNMI, has resigned to pursue another job opportunity. Her resignation will be effective on July 8, 2022. She was sworn in for the six-year term as public auditor only 15 months ago.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 17, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	05/17/2022 SMS-03-X-21-A1	Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting Facility (ARFF) Rapid Refill Project	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 06/03/2022
2. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	05/19/2022 TMS-2022-035	Triple J Barracks & Commercial Building	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 07/13/2022
3. Blue Ocean Tinian Corporation	05/19/2022 TLRm-2022-002	Scuba Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef Tinian	Approved 06/01/2022
4. Marianas Trekking LLC	05/20/2022 SLR-2018-X-101-R5	Kayaking, Canoeing, Stand Up Paddle Board, Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2022
5. Diving Shop Light House Inc.	05/23/2022 SLR-2018-X-169-R5	Scuba Diving Tour/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/07/2022
6. DK S M Corporation dba Tinian Dive	05/25/2022 TLRm-2022-003	Scuba Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/01/2022
7. Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-065-R5	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board Snorkeling, Sailing, Windsurfing, & Hobie Cat	Achugao-San Roque Areas & Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/07/2022
8. Noriko Akari Baidya dba Sakura Saipan	05/25/2022 SLR-2022-007-R2	Commercial Scuba Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/13/2022
9 . BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-077-R5	Parasailing Operations	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
10. BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-076-R5	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour	All Designated Lagoon Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
11. Rafaelito B. Alvarado	05/26/2022 SLR-2022-037	Snorkeling (Watch)	Grotto	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 06/02/2022
12. Mariana Growth LLC	05/26/2022 TMS-2022-038	Tinian Quarry	Marpo Valley Tinian	Major Siting	Conditional Certified 06/14/2022*
13. Aqua Connections, Inc.	05/27/2022 STLR-2018-X-067-R5	Snorkeling & Scuba Diving Tour Operation/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/15/2022
14. HI-Five Co., LTD	05/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-115-R5	Snorkeling Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/13/2022
15. Dive Marianas Corporation dba Dive Saipan	05/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-088-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/13/2022
16. Deep Blue Sea Corporation	05/27/2022 STLR-2018-X-089-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/13/2022
17. Micronesia Resort, Inc dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	06/01/2022 SLR-2018-X-185-R5	Sailing, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Board & Kayaking	Area Fronting Kensington Hotel, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. Axe Murderer Tours, LLC	06/01/2022 SLR-2022-039	Scuba Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 06/15/2022
19. Interpacific Resorts (Saipan) (Saipan) Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club (PIC)	06/03/2022 SLR-2018-X-106-R5	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board Snorkeling, Windsurfing, Sailing	Lagoon Area Fronting Pacific Islands Club (PIC) Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
20. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	06/03/2022 SLR-2018-X-083-R5	Snorkeling, Kayak, Banana Boat	All Designated Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
21. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	06/03/2022 SLR-2018-X-084-R5	Personal Water Craft (PWC), Wakeboard	Fiesta Resort Beach Front Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/13/2022
22. United Front Co. Ltd. dba Super Fish Diving	06/03/2022 SLR-2018-X-085-R5	Scuba Diving Tour/Instruction & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
23. Open Knowledge Systems, Inc. dba Let's Go Diving - Saipan	06/08/2022 SLR-2021-052-R2	Commercial Scuba Diving Operation UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/10/2022
24. H2M Saipan Corporation dba H2M Saipan Dive Center	06/13/2022 SLR-2022-041	Scuba Diving Tour Operations/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
25. Deep Blue, Inc. dba Deep Blue Diving	06/13/2022 STLR-2108-X-098-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operations/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/13/2022
26. Shim Corporation dba Pro Divers Saipan	06/13/2022 STLR-2018-X-100-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operations/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan &Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
27. Department of Public Works (DPW)	06/13/2022 SS-2022-040	Chalan Baba-Rias Roadway Clearing	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
28. Hana Tour Service, Inc. dba Saipan Hana Tour	06/14/2022 SLR-2018-X-137-R5	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Beach Area Southwest of Managaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
29. World Corporation dba Wave Jungle	06/14/2022 SLR-2018-X-160-R5	Kayaking, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Board, Wind Surfing, Floaters	Beach Area Fronting Saipan World Resort, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
30. Big Eye, LLC	06/15/2022 STLR-2021-035-R2	Scuba Diving Tour/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
31. Jessica Jean Castro Domingo dba Bunelos & Siboyas	06/15/2022 SSm-2022-042	Placement & Operation of a Temporary Beer Garden Concession	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 06/15/2022

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

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JUN | 17 | 2022

NMSA's Jerry Tan: Let the Games begin!

By TERI FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

The next nine days marks another milestone for the CNMI, as it plays host to the Pacific Mini Games from June 17 to June 25,2022.

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 by far is the most ambitious sporting event that the CNMI has hosted, with more than 1,000 off-island athletes, officials, and guests, and thousands of the island's residents expected to attend the events that will be held on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

But the task of hosting the event did not come easy. The widespread devastation brought by super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu in 2015 and 2018, the global pandemic, and funding woes were more than enough challenges for the CNMI to consider at one point withdrawing from hosting the Games. But true to the Pacific Mini Games' theme, the CNMI has risen up to the challenge.

For Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, hosting this event is not just about extending the warm hospitality of which the islands and its people are known for, nor is it about rolling out the red carpet with guests leaving happy and satisfied with their experience. For Tan, the road to hosting this momentous event is a story of the islands and its people's resilience.

> **Everyone in the CNMI...pooled their resources together to make the Pacific Mini Games a reality. It just goes to show that teamwork and the spirit of unity and Marianas pride is alive and well on our islands.**

"The CNMI faced several challenges that made us rethink about hosting this event. But, our sporting community had a plan and our government supported it and so we said, let's do this," said Tan.

"Everyone in the CNMI, from our government officials to our business leaders, both in the the private and public sectors and, most importantly, our community all pooled their resources together to make the Pacific Mini Games a reality. It just goes to show that teamwork and the spirit of unity and Marianas pride is alive and well on our islands," Tan added.

Local funding for infrastructure had been scarce since the CNMI decided to go on recovery mode after the back-to-back super typhoons. But thanks to government grants and despite the delays, all have come together at the very last minute. The Oleai Sports Complex' track oval has been resurfaced, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has been repaired and is now air-conditioned, while the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field and American Memorial Part tennis courts got their long-overdue facelifts. Even the Marianas High School has undergone improvement works for the weightlifting competition. The Oleai oval will host athletics and the opening ceremony, the Ada Gym will have the badminton competition. Other sports that will be featured in this year's Games are baseball, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, and va'a.

"Our government has invested a lot on these projects and the return is almost immediate. The impact alone on CNMI tourism is immense since we are hosting thousands of people who will need food, lodging and transportation among others," he said.

With the slew of visitors expected on the islands for the nine-day Games, spending will definitely be at an all-time high. Island businesses have been beefing up their inventories to ensure they have ample goods available, restaurants have special discounts for guests and local residents alike while shelves of local souvenirs have been stacked full in the various retail stores and souvenir shops on the islands.

"As we move closer to the opening of the Mini Games, you can't help but notice how excited everyone is to welcome our visitors. Aside from the generosity of our business community who have made substantial financial contributions, it is our community and their willingness to volunteer that will make this event a truly memorable one," Tan said.

NMI Athletes

Tan is confident that CNMI athletes will perform well during the Games despite missing training during the lockdowns.

"Everyone suffered from this pandemic and the impact on athletes were definitely striking. It came to a point where they were training individually in order to remain in shape and be ready for competition when sporting events such as this will again be a part of community activities. I have full confidence that the CNMI contingent's hard work will pay off and they will reap their rewards of their hard work," Tan said.

Together We Can

With preparation for the Games entering its final moments, Tan has these words of gratitude to all who have invested and believed that the Commonwealth has what it takes to put its game face out for the world to see.

"Overall, a ton of gratitude is due to everyone involved in hosting this year's Games. We all have given more than what is expected of us. A big 'thank you' to the secretariat of the Pacific Mini Games for working with us to make sure we stayed on course. A big kudos as well to the Olympic committees of the different participating countries for their seal of approval and endorsement that the Commonwealth is ready for this moment," Tan said.

"As we move forward to regain a semblance of our old lives back again, it's now time to allow ourselves to experience and again retell stories of triumph, of celebrations, of togetherness. This is what the Pacific Mini Games is to the NMI. This is what we hope our visitors will take home with them and remember," said Tan.

…So, let the Games begin!

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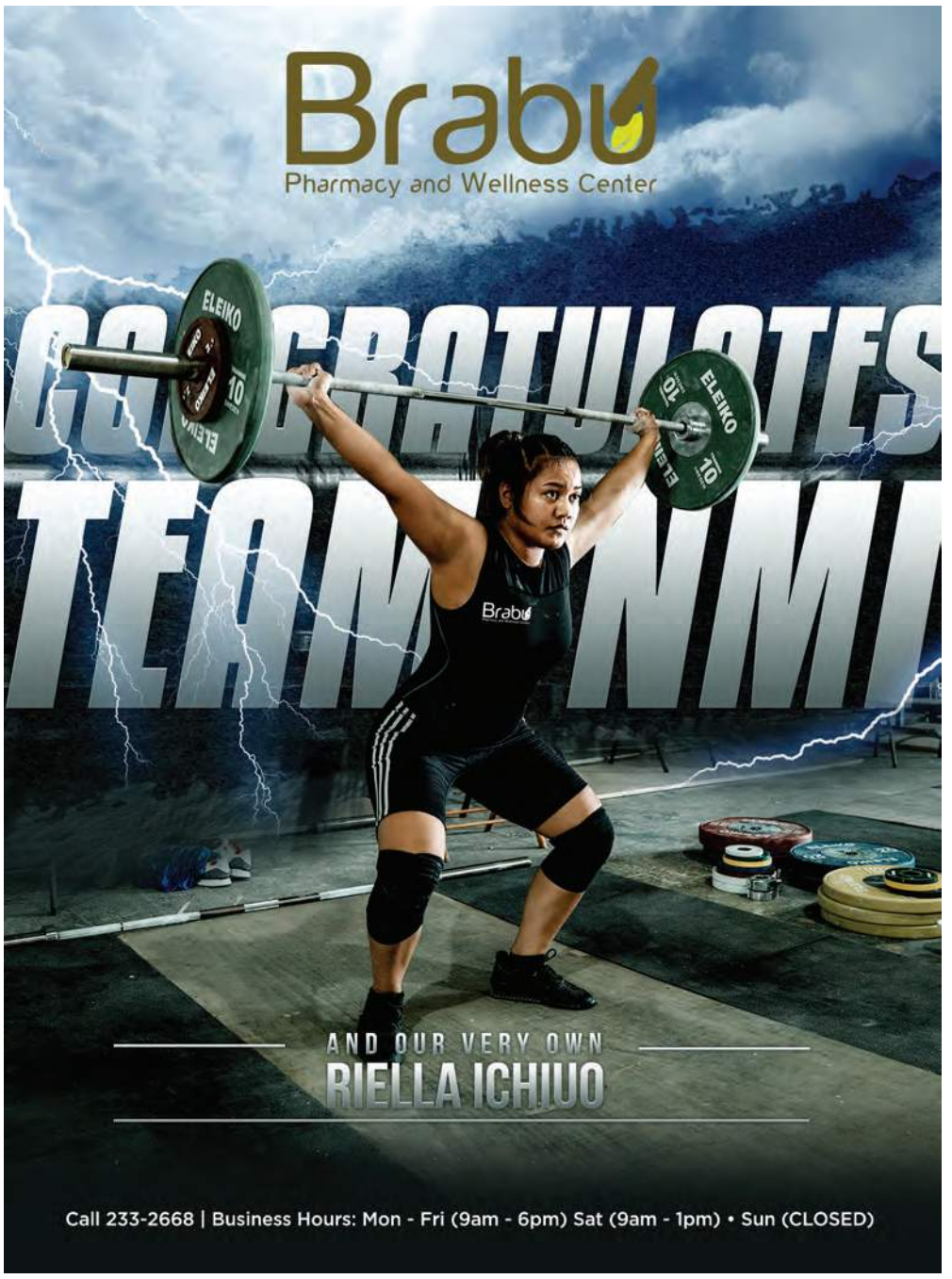
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A celebration of sports and the CNMI community

By TERI FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

A story of celebration, of the coming together not just of neighbors of Pacific Island nations but, most importantly, of the Northern Mariana Islands as its own community: This is the legacy that the Pacific Mini Games 2022 will leave to those who will take part in this historic sporting event. For the CNMI's Chef de Mission Bob Coldeen, this is what this whole nine days of celebration is all about.

With 7,000 nightly sportscasts under his belt spread over 28 years of being the CNMI's preeminent sportscaster, Coldeen brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience he shares with the islands' sporting community.

The CNMI is not new to hosting big sporting events, with the 1990 and 2006 Micronesian Games being held on Saipan and attended by delegates from 10 countries within the Western Pacific region. What makes hosting this Mini Games different were the setbacks that the CNMI had to overcome to get to this point, beginning with

the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020, and cutbacks in funding. These challenges were enough to make the CNMI reconsider hosting the event.

Looking back on his previous experience helping with the Micronesian Games, Coldeen said the impact of these Mini Games reaches a wide spectrum of the CNMI community—from the positive effects it will have on the local tourism industry to boosting the depressed economy to uplifting the deflated spirit of a disheartened community.

In addition, compared to other sporting events, this Mini Games has much more extensive contributions to the local business sector, Coldeen said. "This is generating more resources by far. Back in 1990, we were highly dependent on the government to shoulder the costs but what we see now is the business sector stepping up to the plate, generously giving financial and in-kind support. Expense-wise, this event dwarfs previous games. It is through the generosity of our local businesses that has helped us shoulder the costs of this Mini Games," Coldeen explained.

He considers the level of corporate sponsorship alone for this event to be unparalleled. Another plus factor is the fast-tracked rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by the typhoon. "Looking at it in the long term, hosting the Mini Games is helping us get back on out feet. What usually takes three years to build was rebuilt in three months. That is very impressive," said Coldeen.

He considers the timing of this event as an opportune moment for everyone. The world is coming out of a two-year pandemic while the CNMI, on the other hand, will be getting a much needed boost in spirit to overcome the setbacks of the past four years.

"This is a psychological lift for all of us. It has not been a good couple of years for us. As a sports reporter, I saw everything just ground to a halt due to so much damage but what this Mini Games has allowed us to do is to get back up to speed and get everybody excited about playing again. What we are seeing are all our athletes, with all the trials and negativity, get ready for these games and really pushing it," Coldeen said.

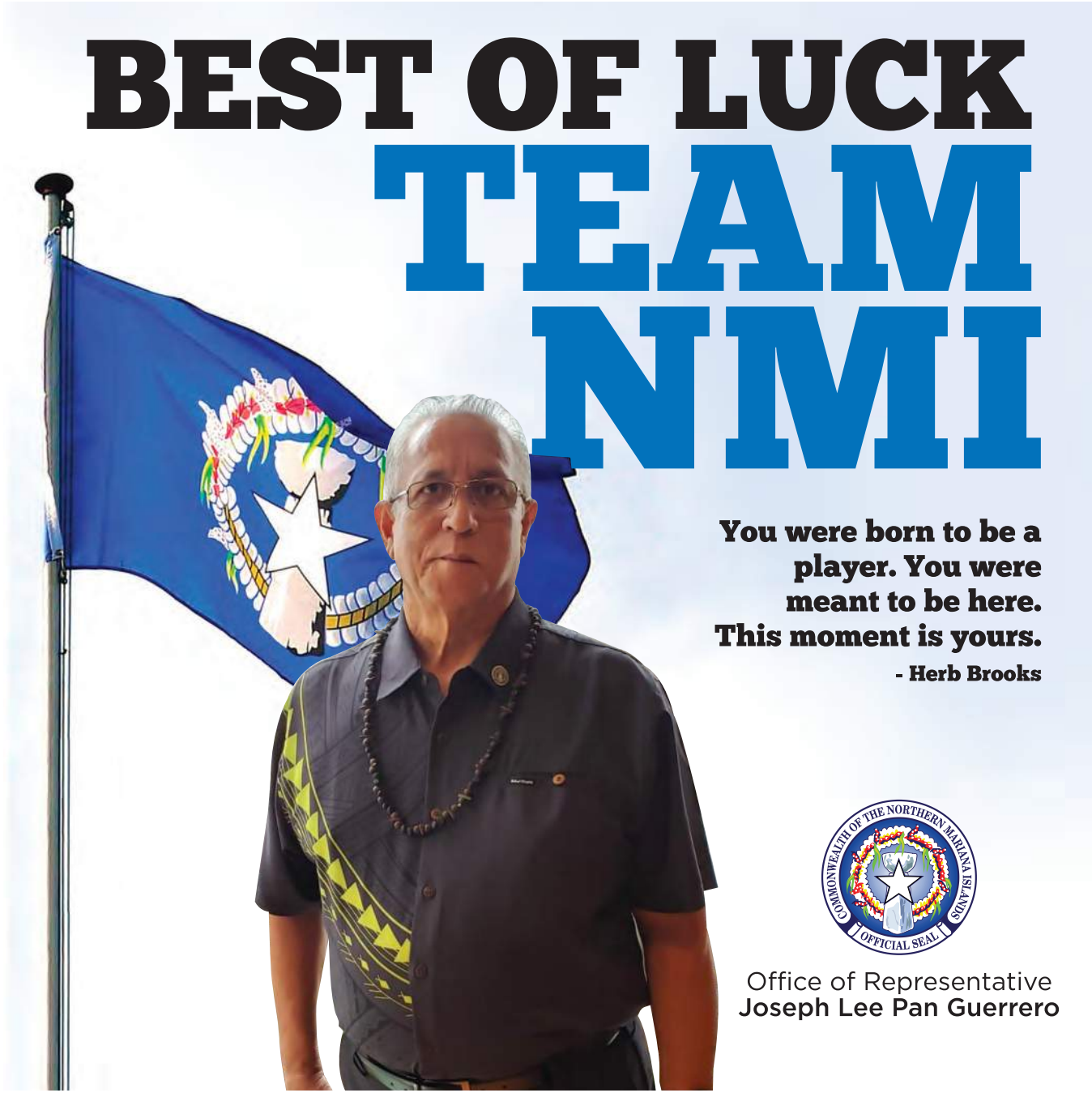
The excitement brought by the Mini Games that is usually just confined to athletes and the sporting community has now spread like wildfire, bringing in the entire island community to take pride in what they will showcase at the events.

The road to making the 2022 Pacific Mini Games a successful and memorable event was fraught with difficulties but Coldeen had no doubt that the Northern Marianas had what it takes to stage the Games. "My experience with the community in 1990 and 2006 and also in other meets is that our athletes and our sporting community, we all eventually come together. I have complete confidence in our ability to do this. I know everyone will come out of this event with a very good experience," he said.

For this veteran sportscaster who has written countless stories of sweet triumphs and agonizing defeats, this Mini Games is also a story about the resilience of the Chamorro people. "The theme 'Rise to the Challenge'… is what it really is. We are literally rising up, building up from the ground. Reconstruction was in full swing, just take a look at the different venues. As far as what I have seen, it's all coming together even if it seems it's all last-minute," he added.

For Coldeen, sports is a reason to celebrate, to enjoy triumphs, and all the other things that come with athletics. As he leads the host island's contingent to the Mini Games, Coldeen hopes to see everyone spreading goodwill, camaraderie, and sportsmanship, with everyone enjoying themselves and leaving with a good feeling about their experience in the CNMI.

Coldeen leaves this message to everyone who will be at the Mini Games: "I would like to thank everybody for coming—sports fans and non-sports fans—just everyone who is using these Games as a means to lift the Commonwealth community up in so many ways—economically, emotionally. Most importantly, just go and have fun!"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ATHLETICS

Andrew, Lyle Pedro

Bata, Zyrus

Borja, Anthony

Borja, Dennis

Cabrera, Tiana

Camacho, Alexander

Chavez, Kaithlyn

Cruz, Casey Cassandra

Epity, Cheraline

Mancao, Michael

Mapeso, Mark

McDonald III, Charles Henry

Myers, Denise

Ogumoro, Richard

Pharmin, Orrin Joseph

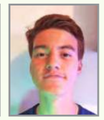
Pixley, Rex Adam

Quitugua, Maria

Rangamar, Kina

Rangamar, Liamwar

Rodgers III, Michael


Rodgers, Theodore Cleveland

Sapong, Zarinae

Tan, Nathania

Veloria, Sildrey

OFFICIALS

Epity, Eptes (Coach)

Olopai, Ronald (Coach)

Shumburger, David Allen (Coach)

Snyder, Ronald Edward (Coach)

BADMINTON

WOMEN'S

Cardinio, Jeanelyn

Fernandez, Windy

Panglinan, Janelle

Savellano, Janine Gail

Serrano, Michaella

Serrano, Mikamaika

MEN'S

Galvez, Andreau

Guerrero, Nathan

Macario, Daniel

Macario, Ezekiel

Manuel, Leonard

Pangilinan, Jordan

OFFICIALS

Digno, James (Coach)

Quidato, Paulo (Asst. Coach)

Surima, Patricia (Asst. Coach)

Tolentino, Merlie (Manager)

BASEBALL

Alepuyo, Patrick John

Babauta Jr., Joaquin Jacob

Cabrera, Dennis

Cabrera, Jerald Jerome

Camacho, Diego Joaquin

Iguel, Lamarc

Iguel, Juan

Jones Jr., Benjamin

Jones, Darion David

Jones, Joshua John

Kaipat, Byron

Lizama, Aldebert Delos Santos

Lizama, Keoni

Nakamura, Franko

Omar, Tyrone

Sablan, John Peter Camacho

Saralu, Nokki

Sebaklim, Lorenzo

Tenorio, Anthony

Yamada, Shane

OFFICIALS

Sablan, Manuel Cepeda (Manager)

Flores, Derron Gerard (Coach)

Cruz, Gary (Coach)

Nelson, Chris (Coach)

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S

Lizama, Charnessa Josie

Winkfield, Kathleen

OFFICIAL

Mister, Tyce (Manager)

MEN'S

Johnson, Andrew Scott

Mister, Logan

GOLF

WOMEN'S

Jin, Zhimin

Oh, Jeong Hyun

Rohringer, Rosalina

Torres, Jeanet

MEN'S

Atalig, Jessie

Atalig, Joshua

Li, Zhi Yun

Santos, Franco

OFFICIALS

Norita, Ned (Coach)

Salas, Victor (Coach)

Togawa, Yuko (Coach)

TENNIS

WOMEN'S

Chung, Serin

Elliot, Hye Jin Irene

Heras, Maria Isabel

Raulerson, Asia

OFFICIALS

Race, Jeff (Coach)

MEN'S

Cruz, Bobby James

Ramsey, Colin Nyle

Schorr, Robert Hanrey

Sinclair, Colin

Cruz, Bobby James (Asst. Coach)

TRIATHLON

WOMEN'S

Brook, Heather Ann

Ruszala, Kathy

Spaeth, Robyn Michelle

OFFICIALS

Ferris, Michael (Coach)

Mister, Dylan Michael (Asst. Coach)

MEN'S

Aleksenko, Isaiah Roger

Villacrusis, Geuel Christian

Wania, Leo Atalig

Diyco, Jefrey (Manager)

WEIGHTLIFTING

WOMEN'S

Ball, Pipit

Ichiuo, Riella Ann

Manuel, Cheyanne

Labausa, Antonette Rosemarie

MEN'S

Apelo Jr., Leonardo

Aquino, Emmanuel

Barnhouse Jr., David Allen

Colisao, Joey

Cristobal, Leowell

Limes, Jason John

Meneses, Joshua

San Nicolas, Angel

Santos, Raymond

Tudela, Joseph Lance

OFFICIALS

Labausa, Antonette Rosemarie (Coach)

Barnhouse Jr., David Allen (Coach)

VA'A

MEN'S

Andrew, Joshua

Asaivao, Tim

Calma, Carter

Camacho, Rodney

Fleming, Mike

Grow, William

Itibus, Maverick

Kabiriel, Ketson

Lee, James

Olopai, Benusto

Quan, Jose

Salas, Richard

Taitano, Jovano

Tarkong, Jason

WOMEN'S

Aldan, Victoria Rita

Borja, Teresa Celine

Calderwood, Heather

Calvo, Danica Leya H.

Concepcion, Rica Branielle

Dasalla , Erryne

Dubrall, Jenisha Jo

Duenas, Mayiah Lorane

Libunao Gerlyn Rose

Oronigo, Vinalynn Arisa

Rasa, Kaya Rain

Sablan, Elaine

Sablan, Sharleen Janel

Tenorio, Elizabeth Rose

OFFICIALS

Andrew, Justin (Coach)

Andrew, Kaleo Hope (Manager)

Cabrera, Elaine Kelly (Manager)

Team NMI girds for the Pacific Mini Games

By JOSHUA SANTOS
CORRESPONDENT

The 2022 Pacific Mini Games begins today, with over a thousand athletes from 20 participating countries vying for medals in nine events: athletics, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, va'a, and weightlifting.

In the days leading up to the Games, Saipan Tribune learns more about the CNMI's teams and how the teams were formed, what they've been doing to train and prepare for the Games, and the teams' aspirations.

ATHLETICS

In February this year, Dr. Ron Snyder was named national head coach for the CNMI National Athletics Team for the Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Saipan Tribune previously reported that Snyder was grateful for the honor to be national head coach. After the Mini Games, Snyder will continue to serve in this role when the CNMI National Athletics Team competes in next year's Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

"I am honored in the trust and confidence that Northern Marianas Athletics has placed in me and I look forward to working with all the coaches in the different events as we get ready for the Pacific Mini Games and the Micronesian Games," said Snyder.

Most recently, the CNMI National Athletics Team was in Mackay, Australia to compete in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships. At this event, the team took home three medals. Snyder expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance.

"They were super competitors, great travelers, and a joy to coach. Three medals were more than I was hoping for but we also earned some good points from our non-medaling athletes. In fact, each of them brought success to themselves and the team," said Snyder.

In a separate interview, Snyder looks back on the challenges faced by the team, and how they overcame them. Most notably, one hurdle was not having the track at the Oleai Sports Complex available during a critical part of the team's training.

"Sprinters had to risk injury on uneven surfaces and throwers had to constrain themselves to practice exercises. This hampered the development of race strategy for our middle distance runners," said Snyder. "This was especially difficult for our steeplechase team who still haven't been able to practice the water jump with water and for our jumpers who didn't get to practice in the pit until recently."

But looking at the Oleai Sports Complex and the track now, Snyder lauded the Games Committee for transforming Saipan into a world-class venue. "The Games Committee has outdone itself in transforming our island into a world-class venue. As the athletics coach, I am incredibly happy with the status of the [Oleai Sports Complex]. I know there is work still to be done, but it looks great!" said Snyder.

Another challenge was the lack of competitions due to the pandemic. "Competition helps hone our abilities and motivates us to our personal best. That has been lacking for too long," he said.

When asked about the team's aspirations going into the Games, Snyder said he has "great hopes in certain areas for some medals" and hoped to see many personal bests from the athletes. "Really, the development of our athletes to achieve their personal bests is more than any coach could ask for," said Snyder.

BADMINTON

In a telephone interview with CNMI National Badminton Team team manager and Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, she said a majority of the players on the CNMI National Badminton Team has had previous regional competition experience, representing the CNMI at the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa. The 2019 team was the first time the CNMI was represented in badminton at a Pacific Game event.

Members of this 2019 team, along with others, participated in badminton team tryouts in October last year. The pandemic halted any training efforts from 2020 to the first part of 2021, but when restrictions began to lighten in the latter half of 2021, serious training began. Over this period, the team participated in local competitions and trained individually.

In February this year, the team headed to Guam to compete in the 2022 Guam Badminton Invitational Tournament, where they collected six gold medals. In a previous interview with Saipan Tribune, Nate Guerrero—who is now team captain of the CNMI National Badminton Team for the Pacific Mini Games 2022—said that the Guam tournament was a good experience.

"The badminton tournament [in] Guam was a great success. Everyone from both associations (Guam National Badminton Federation and Northern Marianas Badminton Association) had a blast and it was a great opportunity for our new players to get that playing experience and for the rest of us to see what we need to work more on," he said.

When asked about the team's aspirations going into the Pacific Mini Games, Tolentino said the team expects to do better than they did in 2019, where Team NMI placed fifth in Mixed Teams. Importantly, Tolentino wants to see the team do their best, represent the CNMI well, and garner experiences in competing against higher-level players. With the Pacific Mini Games 2022 taking place here in the CNMI, Tolentino also encouraged the team to make the most out of home court advantage.

Other aspirations for badminton in the CNMI go beyond the Games—one hope is that, with the many eyes that will be on the Games, more people in the CNMI will be encouraged to try the sport. To further support growing the sport, Tolentino said that additional equipment was procured through the Games. The equipment will be used to deliver community programs, especially at the interscholastic and grassroots level, said Tolentino.

Making up the CNMI National Badminton Team are team captain Nathan Guerrero, Andreau Galvez, Jordan Pangilinan, siblings Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Leonard Isaiah Manuel, Janelle Pangelinan, Jenine Savellano, Jeanelyn Cardinio, Windy Ann Fernandez, and sisters Michaella and Mikamaika Serrano. The team is coached by James Digno and assistant coaches Paulo Quidato and Patricia Surima.

BASEBALL

In May this year, the Saipan Baseball League released its 20-man roster for the CNMI National Baseball Team that will compete in the Pacific Mini Games 2022. The formation of this team came about after months of tryouts and cuts.

Leading the team is former University of West Alabama Tigers pitcher Josh Jones. Other pitchers include J.P. Sablan, Franko Nakamura, Lorenzo Sebaklim, and Jacob Babauta. Outfielders include Ben Jones Jr., Tyrone Omar, Anthony Tenorio, and Juan Iguel. Infielders include Byron Kaipat, Darion Jones, Shane Yamada, Diego Camacho, A.J. Lizama, Lamarc Iguel, Nokki Saralu, Dennis Cabrera, Patrick Alepuyo, Jerald Cabrera, and Keoni Lizama.

In a previous interview with Saipan Tribune, SBL president Jay Santos lauded team manager Manny Sablan and his staff for assembling the team who will defend the CNMI's gold medal—baseball was last played in the Pacific Games in 2011, where the Games were held in New Caledonia. The CNMI took gold in baseball in 2011.

"Coach Manny and his staff have selected a very talented final roster, albeit there were some very difficult decisions to be made with the final cut. This squad is strong defensively and is capable of producing runs as their hitting will be great," said Santos.

"We will be very competitive with our pitching and I expect our defense will be superior when the Mini Games begin. The entire team has worked very hard to get into great baseball shape and I am very thankful to our final roster of players and all of those who tried out for the team for the time, effort, and sacrifice they've put in."

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

National beach volleyball coach Tyce Mister told Saipan Tribune that the team has been "a long time in the making."

Mister said that men's team members Andrew Johnson competed in the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, and Logan Mister competed in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, respectively. "Upon the announcement of the Games to be hosted by the Northern Mariana Islands, this seemed like a great team," he said.

As for vetting more possible team members, Mister said the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association held several events in November and December 2021, and top players from these events were invited to attend national volleyball team training. Off-island teams submitted videos from practice sessions and tournaments, along with training updates. It was through these video submissions that the women's team of Charnessa Lizama and Kathy Winkfield emerged. "Performance and dedication were taken into account," said Mister.

He said the beach volleyball team has been training thrice a week since February, and that he is "really pleased" with how things have come together. "As coach, I'm really pleased with the dedication and improvement of our players throughout our training sessions," he said.

As for the team's aspirations, Mister believes that both the men's and women's teams "have an excellent chance at medaling." However, Mister and the team know that competition will be fierce—"The [Pacific Mini Games] will be extremely competitive. We can't take any teams lightly," he said.

He called on the community's support and hopes to see everyone come out and cheer for Team NMI. For beach volleyball, Mister said that the schedule is to be released on Saturday, June 18.

GOLF

In October last year, the CNMI's National Golf Team was formed after 14 golfers were selected after a final qualifier held at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan. Making up Team NMI for Golf for the Pacific Mini Games 2022 are J.J. Atalig, and Franco Santos for the men, Nirimai Koebel, Rose Rohringer, and Janet Torres for the women, Li Zhi Yun, Joshua Atalig for the junior men, and Zhimin Jin and Sorian Oh for the junior women.

Saipan Tribune previously reported that, after the 14 were selected, Commonwealth Federation of Golf Association president Edward Manibusan congratulated everyone who made the team and said he is sure that "they will try their best to win the gold."

In a previous interview with Saipan Tribune, J.J. Atalig said the team looks forward to competing and going for medals. "I feel good. I worked hard to be part of the team. We look forward to just trying to get medals because that's the goal," he said. Atalig previously represented the CNMI in golf at the 2019 Pacific Games held in Apia, Samoa.

TENNIS

National tennis coach Jeff Race shared that the CNMI team consists of four on-island players and four off-island players. The on-island players are Colin Ramsey, Bobby Cruz, Hye Jin Elliot, and Serin Chung. Coming from off-island are Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, Isabel Herras, and Asia Raulerson.

Giving background on some of the players, Race said that Sinclair plays in the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour; Schorr is a varsity player for Pacific William Woods University in Missouri; Herras plays tennis at the Metropolitan State University of Denver; and Raulerson plays at Albany State University in Georgia.

"Now we're all together, we've been practicing together for the last couple days. I think things are coming together well," said Race.

As far as training for the Games, Race said the players have been "training all their lives."

He said that Chung and Elliot train thrice a week under him as part of a junior program, and train by themselves on the other days of the week.

For Cruz and Ramsay, Race said the two started training seriously for the Games since September 2021. "They've really picked up their games since that time, and it's the best I've seen Colin Ramsay ever play for sure," said Race.

For the four off-island players, Race noted that Schorr, Herras, and Raulerson's university tennis seasons recently ended, and that Sinclair is constantly playing tennis as a result of being on tour.

"I think that we're well prepared as far as training goes," said Race.

For both the men's and women's teams, Race would like to see the teams go for gold and/or medal in the teams, singles, and doubles events. But first, the focus will be on doing well in pool play, and to get into the medal rounds.

As a final message for team NMI, Race said he would like to see the players have what they would consider an optimal performance. "We just want everyone to play as good as they can and…leave it all out on the court for our fans from the CNMI that will be here to cheer us on," he said.

TRIATHLON

Earlier this year, the Triathlon Association of the CNMI named its five men and women who will make up the CNMI Triathlon Team for the Pacific Mini Games2022.

On the men's team are Isaiah Aleksenko, Christian Villacrusis, and Leo Wania. On the women's team is Kathy Ruszala, Heather Brook, and Robin Spaeth. Mick Ferris is team coach while Jay Diyco serves as team manager.

Diyco told Saipan Tribune that training for the Games began in February this year, with Mick Ferris from Australia being hired to give the athletes individual training

See TEAM on Page 25

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

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TEAM

From Page 22

programs. Diyco also said that the team does weekly training at the Last Command Post in Marpi, where they bike and run a portion of the length of a triathlon.

For Diyco, he said the team's expectations are to do their best and, like everyone taking part in the Games, go for gold. Additionally, he thanked the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and the Pacific Mini Games for their support of the CNMI National Triathlon Team, Ferris for sharing his expertise, the athletes for their sacrifices and hard work, and the athletes' families for their continued support of the team.

VA'A

Va'a national coach and Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation president Justin Andrew told Saipan Tribune that the national va'a team program began in late July 2021 with open weekly trials and practices running over the course of four months. From July to November 2021, training on land entailed strength and conditioning training, while time on the water was focused on working on technique.

Andrew said that "more than 20 men and 20 women answered the call for the national va'a team" and dedicated themselves to the program to make the cut. By late November to December 2021, the final cut was set—14 men and 14 women.

Actual training for the Games began in January this year, Andrew said, with a total of 22 weeks dedicated to training and preparation for the Games. For most of these weeks, intense land-based training focused on improving cardio and capacity through sprinting, running hills, and weight workouts. As the Games drew closer, the land-based training lightened and the focus shifted toward strength, conditioning, and fine-tuning techniques in the water.

As for his expectations for the team, Andrew hopes to see the team podium, learn from the experience, and build connections with their fellow paddlers.

"We have been practicing and training for 10 months, and we will do our best and hope to podium. The team looks forward to testing and showcasing their hard work, and to learn [many] lessons [from] our visiting national teams, and of course, make new friends," said Andrew.

WEIGHTLIFTING

CNMI weightlifting national

See TEAM on Page 26

From the staff and management

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Congratulations
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NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

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Have fun, play hard, and don't forget that no matter what happens, We're proud of you.
Good Luck, Team NMI!
From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature and staff

TEAM

From Page 25

coach Antonette Labausa said the team was formed a little over a year ago, composed of both experienced and fairly new weightlifting athletes who expressed an interest in competing. Soon after, training standards were set based on commitment and attendance in training. "We had solidified the final team about three months out. However, everyone has been training this year leading up to it," said Labausa.

Training for the Games took place over a year. Labausa said that nine months were spent training twice a day, meeting four to five times a week. During this time, the focus was on strength and conditioning work and practicing variations of lifts. During the last three months, the team has trained five times a week.

"It has been tiring, but we have been able to stay healthy and we are looking forward to the competition," said Labausa.

When asked about her expectations for the team, Labausa said the focus is to "put ourselves in the best position to make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity memorable." For Team NMI's more seasoned weightlifters, Labausa hopes to see them medal. For the fairly new lifters, Labausa is proud enough seeing them step up to the stage and compete.

Regardless of experience, medals or no medals, Labausa said the team will be proud and supportive of each other. Labausa added that she is happy to see so many athletes represent the CNMI in weightlifting, and hopes to see interest in weightlifting grow in the years to come.

"This is a great growth experience, and I am excited to see the outcome of all of our athletes' hard work. Weightlifting is a tough sport, and we are happy to have this many athletes represent NMI," said Labausa. "We are looking forward to sharing the platform with other countries and [hope to] see more youth and young adults interested in weightlifting in the future so that we can continue to grow."

The CNMI men's weightlifting team is composed of Raymond Santos, Leowell Cristobal, Emmanuel Aquino, Joseph Tudela, Leonardo Apelo, Joey Colisao, Angel San Nicolas, Jason Limes, and David Barnhouse.

The CNMI women's weightlifting team is composed of Pipit Ball, Cheyanne Manuel, Riella Ichiuo, and Antonette Labausa.

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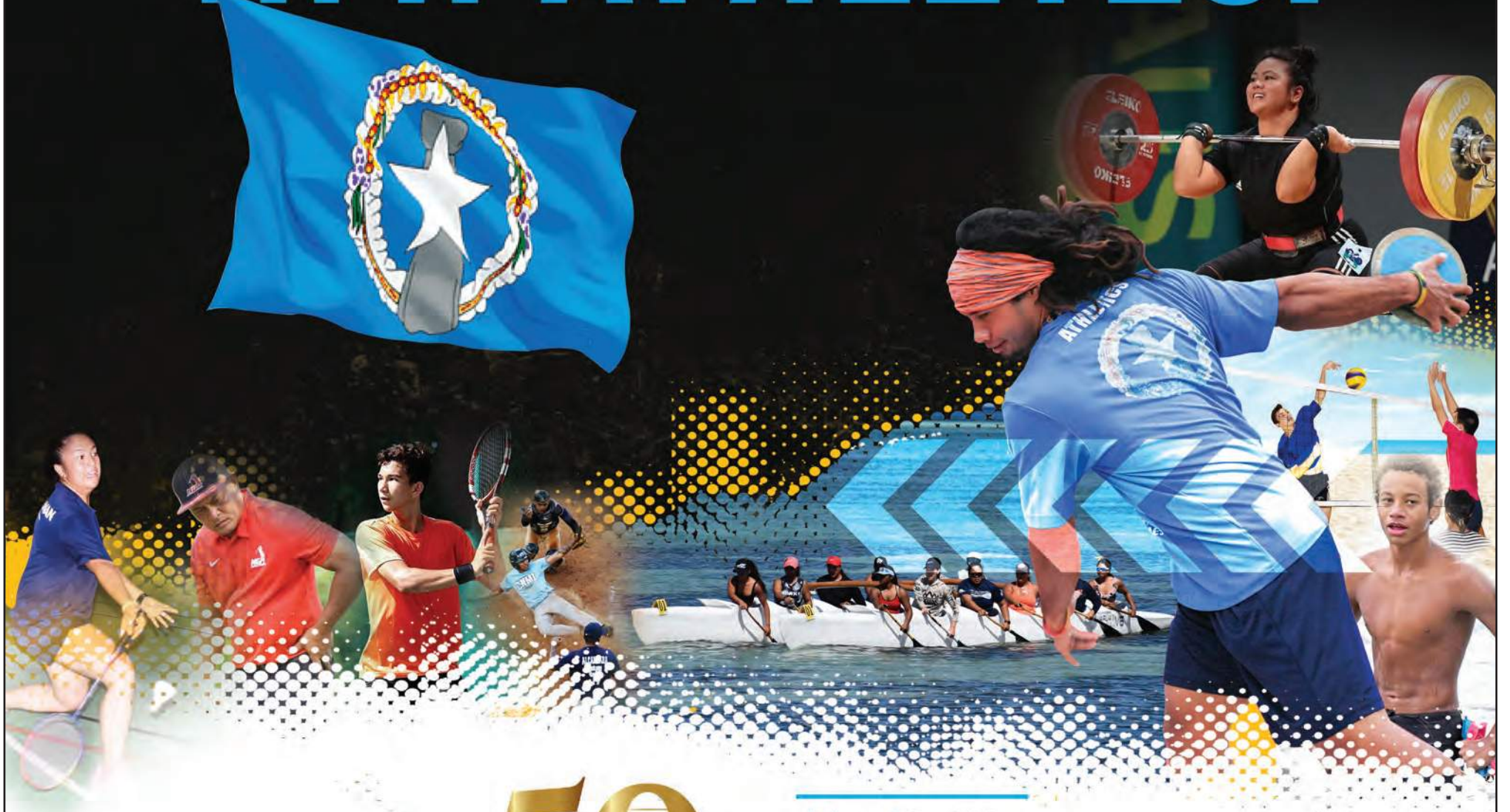

50 One Beat, One Team, One Vision
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Man who faces federal charges in the CNMI arrested in Wisconsin

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Discussions continue whether to bring back from Wisconsin a man who is facing federal charges in the CNMI but fled before being arrested and was eventually caught there.

During a status conference for Bonifacio "Boni" Sagana on Wednesday, District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge told the parties involved that she called the status conference to discuss whether Sagana will return to Saipan or if the case will be remanded back to Wisconsin.

Sagana appeared telephonically out of custody and was represented by his lawyer, Richard Miller.

Aside from repatriating the defendant, the judge also discussed the possibility of setting an arraignment for Sagana.

After hearing from the counsels, Kennedy set a status conference for June 29, to further discuss the matter and granted leave for Sagana to appear by telephone for now.

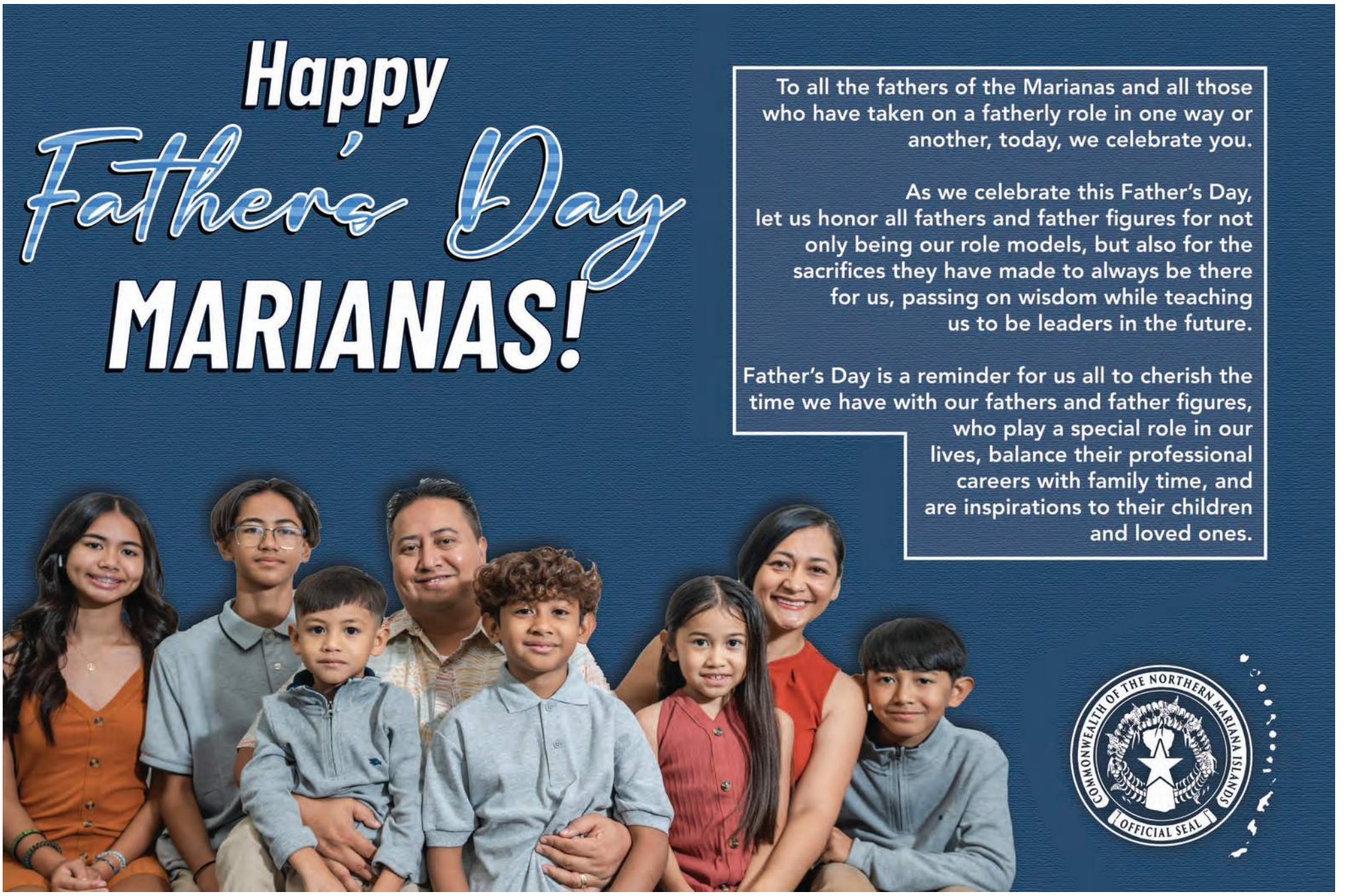
Meanwhile, the U.S. government, through assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe, said he will report on the U.S. Marshal's ability to transport Sagana to Saipan, if needed.

According to court documents, the U.S. District Court for the NMI issued an arrest warrant for Sagana following a grand jury indictment back on Jan. 31, on the charge of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce a CNMI driver's license.

However, Sagana fled the CNMI before he could be arrested and was only arrested on May 16, in Wisconsin.

Sagana was allegedly identified by other defendants facing the same charges as the person who arranged for them to fraudulently obtain a CNMI driver's license using a counterfeit U.S. immigration visa number.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com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MARIANAS!
To all the fathers of the Marianas and all those who have taken on a fatherly role in one way or another, today, we celebrate you.
As we celebrate this Father's Day, let us honor all fathers and father figures for not only being our role models, but also for the sacrifices they have made to always be there for us, passing on wisdom while teaching us to be leaders in the future.
Father's Day is a reminder for us all to cherish the time we have with our fathers and father figures, who play a special role in our lives, balance their professional careers with family time, and are inspirations to their children and loved ones.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, Esq. (F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL
NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060
Fax (670) 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, vs. EPHREM S. TAIMANAO, LUCIA M, TAIMANO, RAYMOND C. FLAWAU (as to 1 lot only – Lot 345 R 168) and CNMI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0162

NOTICE OF AUCTION ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on December 7, 2016, the court-approved auctioneer, Micheline Brel, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following real properties:

Legal description of the properties:

1. Lot 345 R 423, Rota, containing an area of 1,003 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 the original of which was recorded September 27, 1984 under File No. 84-2049 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

2. Lot 345 R 411, Rota, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09, the original of which was recorded September 27, 1984 under File No. 84-2049 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

3. Lot 345 R 188, Sinapalo, Rota, containing an area of 1,033 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 04, the original of which was recorded December 19, 1983 as File No. 83-0383 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

4. Lot 345 R 79, Sinapalo, Rota, containing an area of 1,037 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 03, the original of which was recorded December 19, 1983 under File No. 83-385 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

5. Lot 011 R 16, Rota, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 011 R 00, the original of which was recorded March 06, 1974 under File No. 3439 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale:

The sale will be held on the 1st day of July, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, 2nd Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale:

The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 3rd day of June, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL
NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
/s/ Michael N. Evangelista,
Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
3 P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950
4 Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com
Attorney for: Plaintiff BANK OF GUAM

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, vs. ARCH STRUCTURE CORPORATION dba ASC CONSTRUCTION, JIN XU and HAO) XU, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0229

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order Re: Foreclosure Sale issued by the Court in this matter on April 26, 2022, Vincent J. Seman, the court-appointed Auctioneer, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the rights, title, and interest of Defendants, jointly and severally, in and to the following property:

Lease Agreement entered into on February 1, 2012 and recorded on February 1, 2012 as Document Number 12-0193 which is a long-term lease of improved property located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the "Lease") the real property leased thereby further described as:

Lot 162 E 01, more particularly described on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat No. 162 E 00, the original of which was recorded at the real Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, on February 13, 1995, as File No. 95-343.

Date, Time and Place of Public Sale. The sale by public auction will be held on July 8, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at Seman Law Offices, LLC, JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204, P.O. Box 3 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950. The auction will be opened to the general public. The Auctioneer reserves the right to postpone or cancel the auction at any time.

Inspection of Lease Documents and Leased Property. The Lease, a Plat Map showing the boundaries of the real property that is the subject of the Lease, a map of that property's location in Saipan, this Notice of Public Sale and a copy of the Order re: Foreclosure Sale are available for inspection and copying at Seman Law Offices, LLC weekdays between the hours 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Prospective bidders can contact the Auctioneer to schedule an appointment to view and 11 inspect the leased property prior to the auction.

Terms and Conditions of Public Sale. The auction will be subject to a reserve price which the Auctioneer will disclose to bidders at the start of the auction. The winning bidder must make a non-refundable down payment to the Auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction in an amount of no less than 10% of the winning bid in cash or by cashier's check issued by a commercial bank with a Saipan branch. Within 10 calendar days of the conclusion of the auction, the winning bidder must pay to the auctioneer the remaining balance of the winning bid in cash or by cashier's check issued by a commercial bank with a Saipan branch. Upon full and timely payment, the Auctioneer will issue the winning bidder a Certificate of Sale which will be subject to and take effect upon the Court's confirmation of the sale. The sale of the Lease Agreement will be subject to a statutory right of redemption for a period of one year after the Court's confirmation of the sale. In the event such right of redemption is not exercised, an Auctioneer's Deed shall be issued to the purchaser or its assignee upon expiration of the redemption period. Any modifications or amendments to the 26 auction date will be filed with the Clerk of Court in the form of an Amended Notice of Sale and the Auctioneer will give notice to the public as required by the Order re: Foreclosure Sale.

DATED: June 7, 2022.

SEMAN LAW OFFICES, LLC
By: /s/ Vincent J. Seman
Vincent J. Seman, F-0361
Attorney for Plaintiff

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission hereby gives notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, because of the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Approval of Minutes: May 26, 2022

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:
A. Report by the Acting Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

V. OLD BUSINESS:
A. CCC Checking Account at the Bank of Guam

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
A. Consideration and Approval of the Proposed Stipulated Agreement on Complaints No. 2021-001-005 (consolidated).

B. Consideration and Approval of Petitioner's Motion to Dismiss Complaints No. 2021-001-005 (consolidated).

C. Limited Receivership – Writ of Execution for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC's -- Gaming Machines and Equipment.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
A. Consult with Legal Counsel
B. Report by the CCC Divisions
C. CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Rafael S. Demapan
Acting Chairman

Manibusan joins coalition calling on FDA to regulate non-tobacco nicotine products

Attorney General Edward Manibusan joined yesterday a bipartisan coalition of 31 attorneys general, led by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, in urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reject marketing authorization for all non-tobacco nicotine products, which are currently being sold without regulatory constraints on their contents, manufacturing, health effects or marketing claims. Should the FDA grant marketing authorization to such products, Manibusan and the coalition insist the FDA must impose the same restrictions required of tobacco-derived nicotine products.

To create nicotine products derived from substances other than tobacco, manufacturers have turned to chemicals with potential health impacts that are less understood than their tobacco-derived nicotine counterparts. Yet these non-tobacco nicotine products have not faced the restrictions on sales and marketing that the FDA requires for tobacco products. As a result, these products are being sold in a variety of fruit and other flavors and have become increasingly popular with youth. A new law signed in March by President Joe Biden gives the FDA jurisdiction to regulate these products and requires that manufacturers now seek FDA approval to sell them.

"The number of those who vape have become increasingly alarming and we should take action into regulating these harmful products to protect the public, and especially our youth. Our office will continue to support this coalition and take the necessary steps to safeguard our youth and the public," said Manibusan.

In yesterday's letter, the coalition argue that these products currently fail to satisfy the FDA's public health standard, and that public health should not be gambled on the unknown effects.

If the FDA grants marketing authorization to non-tobacco nicotine products, despite the health risks to consumers and especially to youth, Manibusan and the coalition maintain that the FDA must impose the same restrictions required of tobacco-derived nicotine products. This would include a ban on all products that include a flavor other than tobacco and strict regulatory requirements regarding their contents, manufacturing, and effect on users' health. Products should carry warnings concerning their addictiveness, and manufacturers should be required to validate health claims made about their products, such as claiming that a product is safer than tobacco.

The lack of regulation on non-tobacco nicotine has created an unlevel playing field, as this one category of products has evaded regulatory burdens and restrictions, while its competitors undertake the expense and effort required to conform to FDA requirements. Non-tobacco nicotine products have also skirted the tobacco bans of some major online retailers and are available for purchase online from sellers that do not sell tobacco.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering (maybe foreign equivalent). 36 months experience as Electrical Engineer. Manages all aspects of engineering projects and coordinates resources from design through completion of construction. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Send resume to:
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Tinian Job Vacancy Announcement
Independent Living Skills (ILS) Trainer/administrative assistant

Job Summary: The Independent Living Trainer must have a strong voice for disability rights and independent living, working to assist consumers in maintaining their lives independently in the community. Promotes Disability Partners in the service area and collaborates with community agencies to best assist the consumer to reach goals for independent living.

Job description:
- Assists clients with self-care
- Teaches communication skills
- Trains and assists with community living
- Teaches socialization skills, Increases the client's independence
- Encourages interaction with people without disabilities who are not caregivers
- Provides schedules, routines, environments, and interaction similar to persons without disabilities of a comparable age
- Supports the development of decision-making skills and informed choices in all aspects of daily living
- Assist director and administration duties
- Maintain confidentiality and support privacy at all times.
- Other duties as assigned

Job Qualification:
Degree in Human Services related field or a High School diploma and have at least 2 years of experience in case-management services and/or one year of experience in providing services to persons with disabilities. This position requires excellent written and verbal communication skills, organizational aptitude, and the ability to manage multiple tasks with minimal supervision. Must be available to work a fully flexible schedule as needed.

Documents needed:
Copy of Degree/Diploma, resume, updated police clearance, Valid Driver's License, Covid-19 Vaccination card/record.

RESUME/BIODATA, CURRENT POLICE CLEARANCE, COPY OF VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE, Covid Vaccination record card. Must have reliable transportation.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE

Please submit resume and documents to clisusansatur@gmail.com or submit to Building 1366 in capitol hill

Opening Date: June 17, 2022 Closing Date: June 24, 2022

$100K cash bail set for suspected drug dealer

The Superior Court has imposed a $100,000 cash bail on a man accused of selling methamphetamine, or ice, to Drug Enforcement Task Force cooperating defendants.

During a bail hearing last Friday, suspect Jian Guang Zhang appeared in the custody of the Department of Corrections before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who imposed a $100,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

Assistant public defender Karie Comstock was appointed by the court to represent Zhang while assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government.

After the hearing, Camacho remanded Zhang to the custody of the Department of Corrections and ordered him to return to court on June 17 at 10am for a preliminary hearing, and on June 27 at 9am for an arraignment.

Zhang was arrested in April after he allegedly sold "ice" during two "buy-walk" operations conducted by the Department of Public Safety-Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Zhang, 34, has since been charged with two counts of trafficking, and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

According to court documents, Zhang sold a total of 3.1 grams of methamphetamine for an estimated amount of $480. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

Power interruptions on June 21, 22

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on June 2 I and 22, 2022.

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

■ Time: 9:30am to 10:30am

■ Area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Martinez in As Lito.

■ Purpose: To relocate an airbrake switch along Chalan Monsignor Martinez in As Lito.

■ Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well(s) A ffected: None

■ Wastewater Facility

Affected: A-15 and A-12 lift stations, however, no villages affected.

Wednesday, ,1une 22, 2022

■ Time: 9am to 10:30am

■ Area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Martinez in As Lito.

■ Purpose: To replace undersized conductor jumpers on the airbrake switch and to perform line clearing along Chalan Monsignor Martinez in As Lito.

■ Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well(s) Affected: DD-3, AS-1, AS-2 and AS-5 wells, however, no villages affected.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: W-10 and A-15 lift stations, however, no villages affected. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CPA-RA-003-17, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Drainage Improvement Project, CPA-RA-003-17"*** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of sewer pipe replacement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Terminal including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **SEVENTY-FIVE U.S. DOLLARS ($75.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings in the plans.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Maintenance/Custodian Supervisor's office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Sharlene Manglona, CPA's Rota Ports Manager at email address sharlene.manglona@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 532-9497, during regular working hours.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five-Hundred U.S. Dollars ($500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 11, 2022

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 048

Opening Date: June 14, 2022
Closing Date: June 28, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Gathers, assembles updates, processes and/or distributes forms, documents, requests, invoices, mail and/or records; reviews information for completeness, accuracy and content; resolves discrepancies; prepares information for processing and disseminates and/or maintains documentation.
- Provides reception duties and responds to requests for information; provides customer support with completing forms and answering routine questions; refers inquiries as required to the appropriate resource; and advises management of issues for resolution.
- Enters data in systems or on documents; organizes and maintain files, records, logs, and/or timesheets; ensure file integrity and retention of records and documentation according to established procedures.
- Retrieves and/or prepares reports, correspondence, documents, deposits, account adjustments and other related documentation.
- Monitors supplies, materials and/or equipment inventory; prepares requisitions replenishment of supplies or required services; monitors order status; coordinates deliveries and services with vendors; and may provide pick up or delivery of documents or items as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma, GED or ABE Program.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic filing and recordkeeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Specialized equipment relevant to area of assignment; Modern office technology. Strong interpersonal and communication skills, clerical skills, and moderate computer proficiency.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer service, Filing, organizing and maintain records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Reviewing and researching account information; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources Department located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (except legal holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

PP. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-19

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERAL AIRPORT TYPHOON YUTU FENCE REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the procurement, furnishing and installation of chain link fencing and accessories (commercial and industrial grades), for the installation and general Typhoon Yutu repair/replacement work of its chain-link fences per this Scope of Work and associated Contract Documents, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Project shall be in compliance with all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2ND floor of the Arriver Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of CPA.

Contractors are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of their proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Airport Typhoon Yutu Fence Repairs and Replacements, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-003-19".**

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office upon payment of **$50.00** per package. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeds what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in the Proposal Requirement section of the SOW.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director, Christopher S. Tenorio, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the proposal submission date. Contractors are welcome to inspect the facilities that are not within any secured locations; however, site visits for the Air Traffic Control Tower and ARFF Training Facility should be coordinated with Ms. Prater at telephone number 670-237-6500 or via the email address written above.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Therefore, proposers and their subcontractors must hold their proposal prices in effect for up to 180 calendar days.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 13, 2022

Hafa Adai, Tirrow and Oloomway!
It is with great honor to welcome our guests, delegates, athletes and friends to our beautiful Mariana Islands for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.
We hope you will enjoy your stay and make new friends.
NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022
From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature and staff

Kilili launches App Challenge

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) invites young coders in middle school and high school to showcase their skills and create an app for the 2022 Northern Marianas Congressional App Challenge. Students may compete individually or in teams of up to four by registering online at http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/. Online registration and submissions are due Nov. 1, 2022, and winning entries will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol building for one year.

The Congressional App Challenge is an annual contest held by Members of Congress to encourage student interest in technology and computer programming. Last year, 15 teams comprising of a total of 35 students from the Northern Marianas participated in the challenge.

"The Congressional App Challenge is an opportunity for young coders right here in the Marianas to grow their coding skills and showcase their creativity through tech while representing our Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said. "This is the sixth year that the Marianas congressional office will host an App Challenge. And every year, I am very impressed with our young people's drive to create technological solutions to address modern day needs. I can't wait to see what students come up with this year."

Participants in the challenge may create any type of app they want, written in any programming language, and for any platform, as long as it is appropriate and functional to some degree. Submission requirements include a registration form, a description of the app, a 1–3 minute video demonstration, and an exit questionnaire.

Students of all skill levels are strongly encouraged to participate and learn how to create their own apps. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges and honored by their Member of Congress. Their apps are eligible to be featured on display in the U.S. Capitol building, on house.gov, and on the Congressional App Challenge website.

The 2021 winning app, "A'ayuda," was designed by Marianas High School students Carson Lin, James Lin, Jaehoon Son, and Dip Roy. Their app functions as a community-driven platform for everyday people to learn and share knowledge about

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RSOQ-22-028

Design, Construction Management, and Other Professional Services for Various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of various water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water distribution and transmission main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), sewer manholes, sewer lift stations, water booster pump stations, water storage reservoirs, water treatment systems, wastewater treatment systems, upgrades to existing water and wastewater facilities; providing archaeological and UXO studies and monitoring, providing biological assessments, providing project management services, providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all future Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, ARPA funded grants, EDA grants, DOI/OIA grants, Saipan Local Appropriations, and FEMA grants. All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSOQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RSOQ 22-028, Request for Statement of Qualifications"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 13, 2022**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to lack of information or understanding of the RSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 21, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-029

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-029, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 7, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer at westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-021

Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1, for Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RAESP-22-021, Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-022

Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1 for Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked ***"CUC-RAESP-22-022, Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-072

Opening Date: June 14, 2022
Closing Date: June 28, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Assistant: Cashier**
DEPARTMENT:	**CFO/Treasury/Cashiers**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- The Fiscal Assistant updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program.
Knowledge of: Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 032

Opening Date: June 13, 2022
Closing Date: June 27, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Technician, Customer Service Representative**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Customer Service**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 - $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives and processes customer payments; screens and verifies check receipts; updates customer accounts; reviews customer account status for partial payment receipts; computes payment information; and issues payment slips.
- May provide field utility meter inspection, testing, investigation, repairs and service documentation.
- Enters and verifies account changes and correction transactions; researches, reconciles and compiles adjustment documentation; prepares billing adjustments; and/or documents customer account status.
- Balances cash and other payment receipts and prepares bank deposits; balances credit card receipts with merchant settlement records; prepares sales deposits; processes customer refund payments; may process and file payroll documents.
- Receives and responds to customer calls and inquiries; reviews account and payment information; explains customer billing regarding charge disputes; assists customers with new accounts, required documentation and application processing; processes work orders as required; and refers inquiries to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and files revenue receipts, change vouchers, and related reports; maintains filing system; and prepares listings, schedules and activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of utility accounts or fiscal support experience.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage and testing (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching, reconciling and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 022

Opening Date: June 13, 2022
Closing Date: June 27, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Assistant/Dispatch Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Customer Service/Call Center**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service;
  and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to 1 year of customer service experience.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; receiving and routing service or problem calls; entering, updating and maintaining data; organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 060

Opening Date: June 15, 2022
Closing Date: June 29, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Wastewater Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One(1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.t.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Resolution that 'strongly urges' $1,000 CUC voucher passes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously approved Monday a resolution that strongly urges Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to approve a new $1,000 Commonwealth Utilities Corp. voucher to provide much needed financial relief to all qualified households in the CNMI.

In her House Resolution 22-20 that she pre-filed Wednesday last week and formally introduced Monday, Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) wants the $1,000 utilities voucher to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act money, in compliance with guidelines issued by the U.S. Treasury.

Magofna noted the significant increase of the fuel prices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

After Magofna formally introduced the resolution, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) referred it to the calendar for action that day.

When asked during a press briefing Friday if he will support the resolution, Torres appeared lukewarm to the idea, saying his administration does have something in place. Torres said he, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho have been looking into how to assist CUC customers.

"It's not simply, 'Oh here's $1,000 because so and so.' We do look into the availability [of funds] and how is the best way to assist our CUC customers," the governor said.

Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan) thanked Magofna for introducing the resolution that, according to him, he highly supports. Camacho said he got a third message from a constituent in Precinct 4 about his/her power being disconnected for the third time.

"That's really heartbreaking. I wish there [were] more we can do as legislators to help them in that respect. But right now, I think this is one way to address that issue," Camacho said.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) said he supports the resolution, which he described as "a very good proposal."

Magofna said the intent of the resolution was to offer some immediate relief to people.

Magofna said that, although Torres has publicly come out and said that he will be issuing a $500 local stimulus card, which could also be used to pay CUC bills, "I strongly feel that the stimulus can be used for food or other necessities, much needed necessities, and that this $1,000 voucher can definitely assist our people with regards to their CUC bills."

Last December, the Torres administration provided residential households with a $500 utilities voucher credited to CUC ratepayer accounts.

The administration also allocated $25 million in ARPA funding for the second Local Economic Impact Payment that will give $500 to each eligible filer and dependent in the CNMI. The issuance of the second stimulus cards will start next week.

OIA announces $653,000 to support underserved Pacific Islander communities in the United States

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $652,970 in fiscal year 2022 Technical Assistance Program funds to support three one-stop centers that provide assistance to underserved Pacific Islander communities in Arkansas and Hawai'i, including those who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These funds will provide support to individuals and families who are from the freely associated states and are in need of some essential services or have been especially impacted by the pandemic," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "I applaud the continued work of these one-stop centers for their impactful work in service to the various FAS communities who have chosen to join and contribute to the richness of societies in the United States."

A 2018 U.S. Census Bureau enumeration estimates there are over 16,680 individuals from the freely associated states in Hawai'i. The Marshallese Educational Initiative website estimates there are more than 15,000 Marshallese living in northwest Arkansas and in nearby communities in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri with approximately 10,000 Marshallese in the State of Arkansas alone. Under the Compact of Free Association agreements that the United States has with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, their citizens are deemed legal nonimmigrants who are allowed to live, work and study in the United States without visa requirements for their duration of stay. The funds provided are as follows:

We are Oceania Youth Empowerment Center - $ 250,000

The We are Oceania One Stop Shop, launched in 2015 through the OIA Technical Assistance Program and now a free-standing 501(c)(3) organization, will leverage OIA funding, Housing and Urban Development funds, and free space donated by the American Savings Bank of Hawai'i to develop the WAO Youth Empowerment Center. Funds will be used to help open a learning and wellness center, where Micronesian youth can convene be free of discrimination, bullying, judgement, and harm and receive help for homework, obtain peer mentorship, attend career-readiness training, receive college preparatory advice, learn about Micronesian cultures, and participate in civil activities. In 2017, WAO launched the first annual Micronesian Youth Summit on the University of Hawai'i Manoa campus and has attracted hundreds of young Micronesian immigrants and Micronesian-American youth each year since.

Marshallese Educational Initiative - $232,970

The Marshallese Educational Initiative provided critical support to Marshallese and other communities in Arkansas during the COVID-19 pandemic which included housing needs, food insecurity, employment issues, and health inequities, among others. The MEI continues its work to increase overall economic stability and quality of life for Marshallese residents who continue to migrate to Arkansas and the United States by increasing educational attainment, diversifying work skills, and improving overall health outcomes to help make families more resilient. The MEI provides walk-in services and educational programming to empower Marshallese youth, women, and elders.

Enra Food Pantry, Medicines, and Services Project - $170,000

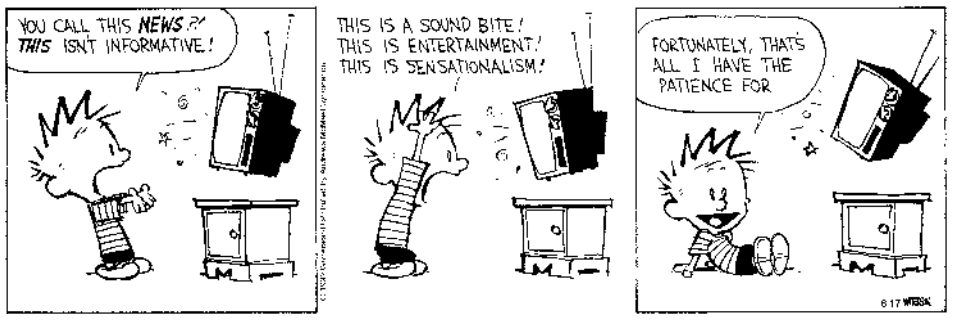
Funds will support the Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, who have partnered on the Enra Pantry, Medicines, and Services Project to provide food, practical assistance, immigration document assistance and other support to Marshallese and other Compact of Free Associated residents and visitors in the Northwest Arkansas region. "Enra" is a Marshallese word meaning a woven food dish shared among villagers, so no one is left hungry. Funding provided will help replenish the Enra Food Pantry, provide critical wrap-around assistance for low-income families with limited resources, provide short-term rental assistance for COVID-19 quarantine purposes, supply medicine, and facilitate immigration document renewal. ***(PR)***

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
Your words have comforted us, your support has strengthened us, and your love has sustained us.
We, the children and grandchildren of the late
†Alice Aquiningoc
Villagomez Pangelinan
extend our deepest gratitude to you all for your kindness,
messages of condolences, support and prayers throughout
our most difficult time with the passing of our mother and grandmother.
We are forever grateful and may the Good Lord continue to Bless you.
THE HOLY BIBLE
Thank you Yan un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Children & Grandchildren

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU CALL THIS NEWS?! THIS ISN'T INFORMATIVE!
THIS IS A SOUND BITE! THIS IS ENTERTAINMENT! THIS IS SENSATIONALISM!
FORTUNATELY, THAT'S ALL I HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR
6-17 WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL, GARFIELD...
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?
AND I KNEW IT AS SOON AS I SAID IT
JIM DAVIS 6-17
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Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SISTER: CANCELING HEADPHONE TEST: DAY TWO
OKAY. NOW, BE ANNOYING, KATY.
WHAT?
THIS IS STUPID! I'M NOT ANNOYING, YOU ARE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JERKS! I'M GONNA...
YOU HEAR ANY OF THAT?
I REMAIN BLISSFULLY UN-SISTERED!
HARRELL
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OOH! "THE BOLD AND THE NEUTERED"! WHAT DID I MISS?
IT WAS JUST GETTING GOOD.
DAISY CAME DOWN WITH KENNEL COUGH RIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING, AND CHAMP WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL HER HE'S RUNNING OFF WITH BELLA.
THEN THE DOORBELL RANG, AND NOW EVERYONE'S BEEN BARKING THEIR HEADS OFF FOR THE PAST TWENTY MINUTES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

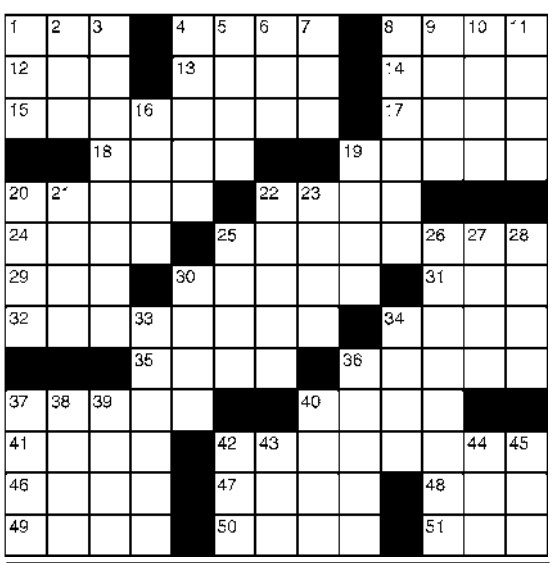
ACROSS
1 German auto
4 Casual shirt
8 Palm starch
12 Fish eggs
13 Cain's brother
14 "— Little Tenderness"
15 Sandpaper-like
17 Monthly payment
18 Formerly, once
19 Below, in verse
20 Rich cake
22 Gospel singer Winans
24 Andy's boy
25 Therapeutic
29 Fun and games
30 Heart line
31 Meadow
32 Glue
34 Mr. Guinness
35 Actor Sinise
36 Melting snow
37 Aviary sound
40 Hebrew prophet
41 Zero, in tennis
42 Family tree figure
46 Help in a crime
47 Mr. Stravinsky
48 Black gold
49 Forest growth
50 Bard
51 Prefix with natal

DOWN
1 Bikini top
2 Unruly group
3 Powerball winners' cry
4 Old hat
5 Last writes?
6 O.T. book
7 Flamenco cheer
8 Avenue
9 Region
10 "Peer —"
11 Vow
16 Jocular Johnson
19 Final Four org.
20 Afghanistan's — Bora region
21 Pundit's piece
22 S-shaped, as a road
23 Deco artist
25 Coconut fiber
26 Mirage
27 Geese formations
28 Apiece
30 Now, in a memo
33 Marsh birds
34 Oodles
36 Brainy
37 Chowder morsel
38 — bag (large shoulder purse)
39 Currier's partner
40 Lip balm ingredient
42 Tear
43 Swelled head
44 Compete
45 "Xanadu" band

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	A	J	D	■	B	A	R	■	S	M	O	G
E	■	T	E	■	A	L	I	■	P	A	P	A
N	O	A	M	■	B	A	M	■	A	N	T	S
S	P	H	E	H	E	■	S	E	N	D	■	■
■	■	■	A	I	I	T	I	F	S	A	M	E
G	O	W	N	S	■	I	O	N	■	■	I	X
A	R	E	S	■	A	M	T	■	S	E	R	E
G	A	L	■	A	B	E	■	P	E	S	O	S
A	L	L	T	H	E	R	A	G	E	■	■	■
■	■	M	O	A	T	■	L	A	W	■	U	L
E	G	A	D	■	T	E	L	■	I	■	R	E
N	A	D	A	■	E	R	A	■	I	L	L	S
T	H	E	Y	■	D	R	Y	■	Z	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 6-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 42; Will Forte, 52; Greg Kinnear, 59; Barry Manilow, 79.

Happy Birthday: Think matters through, and plan your year based on your needs. You'll develop a strategy that makes what you want to achieve doable. Expand as you go instead of trying to do everything at once. Take care of tedious details yourself so you don't fall behind. If you count on others or expect everything to fall into place, disappointment will follow. Your numbers are 8, 14, 23, 25, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Call those you can count on for help. Don't limit what you can do because you lack experience. Do your research, and you'll figure out how to reach your objective. Be confident, ask questions and do your best. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You've got time. Relax, go over every detail and leave nothing unfinished or open to criticism. Hide your disappointment if things don't unfold the way you want. Work with what you have, and don't take unnecessary risks. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider options, and remind people to honor their promises. Be the one to finish what you start. Enhance your chance to be victorious by staying on top of what's possible. Rule out nothing, and do your best to stay on track. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do what comes naturally. Align yourself with people and positions that intrigue you. You'll figure out how to utilize what you have to offer in effective and diverse ways. You'll make headway by paying attention to contracts, investments and health matters. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Avoid letting anyone draw you into something unsettling. Don't make a change for the wrong reason, especially to please someone else. Patience will pay off, and speaking from the heart will bring you closer to someone who has something to offer. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look inward, assess your situation and the changes you want to make, and prioritize what's most important to you. Don't feel obligated to be a follower when taking the road less traveled will help you establish yourself as a leader. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Plan to travel, look for something entertaining and socialize with people you find mentally stimulating. What you learn while interacting with people from different walks of life will help you redesign how you move forward. Protect your health and financial well-being. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Handle disagreements cautiously. Listen carefully and reserve judgment until you have all the pertinent facts. Take a positive approach to relationships and how you deal with people who are different from you. Let the uniqueness of others shape what's to come. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put your heart into finishing what you start. Dedication and discipline will win out when it comes to outmaneuvering anyone who tries to compete with you. Use your resources wisely, and be careful when dealing with situations that pose health risks. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Monitor what's being said and done. Stick to the facts, and don't tolerate exaggeration or aggression. Concentrate on what and who matter to you, and change only what will improve your life substantially. Romance is favored and will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be a witness, not a participant. Protect against loss, illness or misguided individuals trying to tamper with your life. Be true to yourself and your dreams, hopes and wishes. Focus on home improvement and expanding your interests. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Choose your words carefully. Leave nothing to chance, and don't risk your reputation or position. Focus on what matters to you most. Sort out any lingering problems that need to be addressed before moving forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and steadfast. You are compassionate and friendly.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		3			9	1	
7				4				8
5			9					
						8		5
	6						7	
3		9						
					2			3
6				5				2
	7	1			6		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Yesterday's Answer

9	5	6	4	7	8	2	1	3
8	3	1	6	2	5	7	9	4
4	2	7	3	9	1	6	8	5
3	1	2	9	4	6	5	7	8
5	4	8	7	1	3	9	6	2
6	7	9	5	8	2	4	3	1
7	9	3	1	5	4	8	2	6
1	8	4	2	6	7	3	5	9
2	6	5	8	3	9	1	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARE YOU THE NURTURING TYPE? Solution: 5 letters

N	P	S	D	E	E	N	G	S	U	P	P	O	R	T
O	A	E	E	S	I	A	R	P	N	N	R	A	E	L
U	R	I	R	P	T	S	O	O	B	A	H	A	S	A
R	E	U	R	U	L	H	W	U	B	O	C	L	S	X
I	N	D	T	A	T	E	T	S	P	H	O	O	E	E
S	T	E	P	I	T	A	H	E	E	Y	C	V	L	P
H	S	E	A	R	R	I	N	R	A	L	H	I	F	R
U	L	F	T	R	O	I	N	L	C	I	E	N	L	O
S	A	W	I	F	E	T	P	A	E	A	R	G	E	V
B	R	G	E	U	Y	H	E	S	M	D	I	F	S	I
A	O	N	N	D	P	L	T	C	E	U	S	O	E	D
N	M	Ⓜ	T	I	I	L	I	O	T	R	H	S	C	E
D	O	U	Ⓛ	A	R	U	I	M	M	E	V	T	U	V
Y	T	E	F	Ⓐ	S	A	G	F	A	T	H	E	R	I
N	S	O	L	A	Ⓒ	E	C	L	T	F	Y	R	E	G

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Boost, Born, Calm, Caring, Cherish, Daily, Doula, Exalt, Faith, Family, Father, Feed, Foster, Give, Growth, Guide, Heal, Help, Hope, Humanitarian, Husband, Learn, Loving, Loyal, Morals, Mother, Nature, Needs, Nourish, Nurse, Parent, Patient, Peace, Praise, Protect, Provide, Safety, Secure, Selfless, Serve, Solace, Spirit, Spouse, Support, Teacher, Uplift, Wife

Yesterday's Answer: Shovel

To purchase **Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition**, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Astros throw 2 immaculate innings in 9-2 win over Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Astros starter Luis Garcia and reliever Phil Maton each threw an immaculate inning — nine pitches, three strikeouts — and Martín Maldonado keyed a six-run first inning that sent Houston over the Texas Rangers 9-2 on Wednesday.

Maldonado hit a two-run double in the first and later homered for the AL West-leading Astros.

Garcia (4-5) struck out nine without a walk over six innings while limiting Texas to two runs and four hits. He had a span of five consecutive strikeouts that began with an immaculate second inning —when he threw only nine pitches to strike out Nathaniel Lowe, Ezequiel Duran and Brad Miller.

Those were the first three batters Maton faced after replacing Garcia to start the seventh. And Maton also recorded a nine-pitch, three-strikeout inning.

Astros and Rangers officials said it was the first time in MLB history to have two nine-pitch, three-strikeout innings in the same game — either both by one team, or each team recording one.

The Astros sent 11 batters to the plate in the first inning. The first nine faced fill-in starter Tyson Miller (0-1).

Dodgers 4, Angels 1

In Los Angeles, Tyler Anderson of the Los Angeles Dodgers lost his no-hit bid in the ninth inning against the Angels when he gave up a one-out triple to Shohei Ohtani.

Anderson (8-0) threw a career-high 123 pitches. He struck out eight and walked two in lowering his ERA to 2.82. The left-hander was pulled after Ohtani sent a line drive into right field that eluded a diving Mookie Betts.

Craig Kimbrel allowed an RBI single to Matt Duffy before closing it out.

Will Smith hit a three-run homer in the first, and Trea Turner added a solo shot in the third.

The Dodgers took both games of this Freeway Series for their sixth series sweep of the season. The skidding Angels lost their 11th in a row on the road and have dropped 18 of 20 overall.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

In New York, Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 25th home run, No. 9 batter Kyle Higashioka followed an intentional walk with a three-run drive and New York beat Tampa Bay for its 13th straight win at home.

Nestor Cortes (6-2) outpitched Shane McClanahan (7-3) in a matchup of stellar starters with sub-2.00 ERAs, and Clay Holmes matched Mariano Rivera's team record of 28 consecutive scoreless appearances, remaining perfect in 11 save chances.

The Yankees have won six in a row and 13 of 14 overall. New York's 46-16 record is its best after 62 games since 1998. The team's 13-game winning streak at home is its longest since 1973.

Braves 8, Nationals 2

In Washington, Austin Riley homered twice, rookie Spencer Strider allowed one hit over 5 2/3 innings, and Atlanta beat Washington for its 14th straight victory.

Orlando Arcia had a homer, three singles and a walk for the Braves, who swept a three-game series at Washington.

The Braves are one win away from tying the franchise's post-1900 record, a 15-game streak from April 16-May 2, 2000.

Strider (3-2) didn't allow a hit until Luis Garcia homered to right-center with two outs in the fifth.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1

In Philadelphia, Garrett Stubbs hit a three-run homer with two out in the ninth inning, sending Philadelphia past Miami.

Alec Bohm sparked the winning rally with a one-out single against Tanner Scott (2-2). Pinch-hitter J.T. Realmuto walked before Yairo Muñoz struck out swinging.

That brought Stubbs to the plate, and he drove a 2-2 fastball deep to right for his third homer.

White Sox 13, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Yoán Moncada had five hits and five RBIs and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Detroit.

Moncada, Danny Mendick and Seby Zavala homered for Chicago. The White Sox finished with 22 hits, compared to four for the Tigers. Davis Martin (1-2) pitched 5 1/3 innings of three-hit ball.

Tigers starter Alex Faedo (1-3) allowed seven runs and nine hits in three-plus innings.

Tigers manager A.J. Hinch gave up on his pitching staff after six innings, using position players including Kody Clemens, who made his pitching debut. The 26-year-old's father, Roger, won seven Cy Young Awards.

Red Sox 10, Athletics 1

In Boston, Rafael Devers homered in his fourth straight game and Alex Verdugo hit his first home run in almost two months as Boston beat Oakland.

Rookie Josh Winckowski (1-1) earned his first major league win in his second start. The 23-year-old righty allowed four hits, struck out three and walked one in five scoreless innings.

James Kaprielian (0-4) gave up six runs on seven hits and six walks in 3 2/3 innings.

Brewrs 10, Mets 2

In New York, Corbin Burnes bounced back from his two shortest outings of the season to pitch six innings of two-run ball, Willy Adames got two of his three hits in a seven-run fifth and Milwaukee routed New York.

Manager Craig Counsell got his 564th victory with the Brewers, breaking the franchise record. Counsell passed Phil Garner, who managed 1,180 games for the team from 1992-99.

New York's nine-game home winning streak ended.

Burnes (4-4) yielded five hits, including Jeff McNeil's homer in the fourth and RBI single in the sixth, while striking out eight and walking none.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 6, 10 innings

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 16th homer, then singled home the winning run in the 10th inning to lift Toronto over Baltimore.

Orioles rookie Adley Rutschman hit his first career home run and got his first two RBIs. Ryan Mountcastle homered twice, but Baltimore lost for the eighth time in nine meetings against Toronto.

Leading off the 10th against Félix Bautista (2-2), Guerrero lined a single to left that scored automatic runner Bo Bichette from second base.

Diamondbacks 7, Reds 4

In Phoenix, Zac Gallen pitched seven effective innings despite an early bout of wildness, and Arizona used a four-run eighth inning to top Cincinnati.

Geraldo Perdomo hit a two-run homer for the Diamondbacks, who avoided a three-game sweep.

Arizona went ahead to stay on David Peralta's one-out RBI single against Art Warren (2-3).

Brandon Drury hit his 13th homer for Cincinnati, a tying shot with two outs in the eighth off Noe Ramirez (2-1). Luis Castillo pitched seven innings of four-hit ball for the Reds.

Twins 5, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Ryan Jeffers hit an RBI single off the center-field wall to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning Minnesota beat Seattle.

Twins starter Sonny Gray, making his first appearance since going on the injured list with a strained pectoral muscle on June 2, threw five shutout innings.

Five Twins relievers then completed the five-hitter. Griffin Jax (4-0) followed Gray and struck out two in one inning.

co Gonzales (3-7) allowed one run and three hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Royals 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Whit Merrifield broke a 2-2 tie with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly and Kansas City edged San Francisco to avoid a three-game sweep.

Brandon Belt homered for the Giants, whose five-game winning streak ended.

Jose Cuas (1-0) entered with one out in the seventh and retired three batters to earn his first career victory. Scott Barlow recorded the last five outs for his seventh save in eight opportunities as Kansas City snapped a four-game losing streak.

Pirates 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Bryan Reynolds hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning and Pittsburgh ended a nine-game skid by beating St. Louis.

Reynolds hit his 11th homer of the season after Tucupita Marcano singled with two outs off reliever Andre Pallante (2-1).

Wil Crowe (3-3) threw two scoreless innings in relief, and David Bednar picked up his 11th save by pitching the final 2 2/3 innings.

Jack Flaherty made his first appearance of the season for the Cardinals, who lost for the second time in their past nine home games. The 26-year-old right-hander started and threw 60 pitches over three innings, allowing four runs, two earned, and three hits.

Guardians 7, Rockies 5

In Denver, José Ramírez got four more hits, Steven Kwan made a remarkable diving catch in the seventh inning to preserve the lead, and Cleveland beat Colorado for its 12th win in 15 games.

Josh Naylor delivered the go-ahead double in the fifth and Amed Rosario added four hits, including his first home run, as the Guardians (31-27) moved four games above .500 for the first time this season.

Padres 19, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Manny Machado singled for his 1,500th hit and launched a two-run homer on a four-RBI night to help San Diego beat reeling Chicago.

Machado was one of five Padres with three hits as San Diego routed the Cubs for the second straight hot night at Wrigley Field. Jorge Alfaro added a two-run homer and three RBIs as San Diego improved to 40-24 in winning its third straight and seventh in nine.

Jake Cronenworth and Jurickson Profar each doubled twice and had three hits for the Padres. Luke Voit hit a solo homer off first baseman Frank Schwindel, mopping up in the ninth, for his third hit.

Chistopher Morel homered and had three RBIs for the Cubs, losers of nine straight. San Diego has outscored Chicago 35-11 in the first three of a four-game series.

Warriors lean on history with a chance to close out Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Stephen Curry and the Warriors have been within a game of clinching a championship in three of Golden State's previous five trips to the NBA Finals during his 13-year NBA career.

Back again and with a 3-2 series lead on the Celtics, Curry says he'll lean on that experience when he takes the court at Boston's TD Garden on Thursday night.

"You just understand what the nerves are like," Curry said. "At the end of the day, once you get out there, you just have to be in the moment. You got to be present as much as possible, not worry about the consequences of a win or a loss. The only opportunity you have is that 48 minutes."

The Warriors' core of Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green is still around from the 2015 championship run. They're on the verge of capturing their fourth title in eight seasons with new additions to the floor — like Andrew Wiggins and Jordan Poole — who have never been in this position.

Curry's advice to them: Lie to yourself a little bit.

"The more you can trick your mind into being in the moment and staying there, that's the best advice I can give anybody in that situation," he said. "Because it's going to be the hardest game you probably ever played in your career because of what the stakes are."

The stakes will be equally high for the Celtics, who let the turnover demons that have haunted them at times throughout the postseason prevent them from seizing a commanding 3-1 series lead.

Boston limited Curry to his lowest scoring output of the finals in Game 5, but couldn't overcome 18 turnovers. The Celtics dropped to 1-7 this postseason when committing 16 turnovers or more — and lost consecutive games for the first time since the end of March.

But they have a chance to force Game 7 — and the chance is coming at the Garden, where they are 6-5 in the playoffs.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates during the second half of Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Boston Celtics in San Francisco, Monday, June 13, 2022.

The mood at the close of Wednesday's practice session was loose, with players smiling and joking while getting up some shots. Celtics star Jayson Tatum said the optimism comes from the team's extremely recent playoff history.

Boston's path to the finals has included Game 7 victories over Milwaukee in the second round and Miami in the conference finals. The Celtics entered the finals as only the 12th team in league history to win back-to-back Game 7s in the preceding rounds.

"In those moments, we just responded. I don't know exactly what it is, but I think just our will to want to win, just trying to figure it out," Tatum said. "I think my thought process, as it was in that game, Game 7 against the Heat, it was just do whatever it takes to win."

That, and reminding himself and teammates of the fact that there is still basketball left to play.

"It's the first to four. It's not over with," Tatum said. "So as long as it's not over with, you got a chance."

MY BALL

Tatum and Green had one of the more memorable moments in Game 5, when Tatum refused to let Green take the ball from him as he walked to the bench during timeout.

The play was an example of the head games Green has tried to play against a young Celtics team throughout the finals.

On Wednesday, Tatum clutched a basketball throughout his news conference. He was asked by a reporter if he was still keeping it away from Green.

"Oh, like the other day?" Tatum asked. "Yeah, It's my ball."

ENOUGH TALK

One thing Celtics coach Ime Udoka wants to eliminate heading into Game 6 is his team complaining to referees about calls.

Boston picked up a pair of technical fouls in the loss — one in the first quarter by Udoka and another by Marcus Smart early in the fourth. Smart's technical was followed immediately by an offensive foul call against him, which led to a 3-pointer by Golden State.

"I think in general just too many conversations being had at times. Feels like after foul calls or dead balls, free throws, timeouts, there's somebody talking to a ref," Udoka said. "We've got to spend our energy on the game, and everything else going in between, other than the referees."

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Fiji concedes Tahiti is team to beat

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

On the shores of the 13 Fishermen Monument, with the backdrop of the early morning sunlight, breeze, sounds of the waves, and the honks of the vehicles passing by, Fiji National Outrigger Canoe Team paddlers were seen resting after their practice run Wednesday morning.

The Fiji team consists of four paddlers, two men and two women, each partaking in the 500m sprints and in the 16-km marathon of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Anton Chung, manager for the *va'a* team, said that the course is professionally done up and that the conditions of the waters are similar back home.

LEIGH GASES

The Fiji National Outrigger Canoe Team, from left, Clayton Horsfall, Krystelle Whippy, Semesa Vilise, Elenoa Vateitei, coach Duane Reiher, and manager Anton Chung at the 13 Fishermen Monument Wednesday morning after their practice run of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 va'a course.

The team collectively agreed that they deemed their top competition to be the Tahitian team who have won every *va'a* event in the 2013 Pacific Mini Games in New Caledonia.

Chung added that they are hoping to medal in any of the outrigger events that they are joining.

He said that Fiji was in strict COVID-19 lockdowns until December 2021 and their team finally had proper training in January of this year.

Duane Reiher, coach for the Fiji *va'a* team said in an interview, "The team has come together probably over the last five months, we've been training back home in Fiji. We started off with a group of maybe 12 paddlers, and slowly cut down to the final two men and women that we have with us here today through our national selection policies."

"I think they've trained well together to come out here and compete well with the top paddlers from Tahiti, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna. And hopefully, we can give them a good run for their money," added Reiher.

When asked if any of the team members have been to Saipan before, he said, "It's my first time here. I think it's the first time for all of us, actually. I've been to a number of Games and the accommodation has been by far the best that I've experienced so far. The course is done really well. Canoes are state of the art. I guess, they're the top canoes out there. I can't complain about the facilities that we have in the accommodation, so it's been good so far."

The Fiji *va'a* team consists of Semesa Vilise, Clayton Horsfall, Krystelle Whippy, Elenoa Vateitei, and Chung and Reiher.

Va'a is the second most participated sport in the Mini Games after athletics.

Separately, volunteers were seen on site at the venue in preparation of the *va'a* opening games this Monday, June 20.

One volunteer, Joaquin Quenga, who is the volunteer manager for the *va'a* equipment and volunteers at the venue said that there are about 10 volunteers helping out with bringing in and organizing the canoes and that the venue is just about ready.

Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta was also seen at the venue with the NMI women's team who were waiting their turn to practice the course and said "you can see the excitement here because it's roadside. The boats are ready, the paddlers, the teams are ready. And it's just quite exciting to see everyone passing by honking their horns for the teams."

Babauta then invited members of the community to watch the opening ceremony today, "inviting everybody for the opening ceremony. It will be spectacular. There'll be a surprise show at the end, and also our performing artists both Carolinian and Chamorro groups combined."

MGOC hosts 'Meet & Greet' for sponsors

The Mini Games Organizing Committee hosted a "Meet & Greet" to recognize the sponsors of Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at Kensington Hotel last Tuesday night.

Many sponsors at the platinum, gold, silver, and bronze levels were present to celebrate all their contributions and donations toward the Mini Games.

Mini Games Organizing Committee media committee chair Frankie Eliptico introduced the different dignitaries of the event, including Senate President Jude Hofshineider (R-Tinian), Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), Mayor David Apatang, and House Speaker Edmond Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Eliptico also wants to give a big thank you to all sponsors from each level.

Starting with the platinum sponsors, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Joeten Daidai Foundation, T Galleria, and IT&E who also have supported many other causes throughout the years, not only the Mini Games, said Eliptico.

The gold sponsors are Docomo Pacific, LSG Sky Chefs, Northern Marianas College, E Land Group, Fishguyz Scuba & Charter, Turn Key Solutions, Atkins Kroll Saipan, United Equipment Rental, and Glorified City Limited.

The silver sponsors are McDonald's Saipan and Guam, MARPAC, Mobil, Triple J Inc., NMTECH, Bank of Guam, and Shaded Rentals.

The bronze sponsors are Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Aqua Resort Saipan, Chong's Corp., Herman's Modern Bakery, Saipan & Ice Water Company, Islander Rent A Car, First Hawaiian Bank, Micronesian Air Cargo Services, MATSON, Saipan Stevedore Company, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Lastly, the sportsmanship sponsors are Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Saipan Shipping Company Inc. Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance, RNV Construction, Kalayaan, Inc., Island Cafe, Cepeda Tent Rental, and EST Rental.

Elliptico said all sponsors are greatly appreciated not for only donating cash but also their time, guidance, advice, and counsel. ***(Jinkim Abogado)***

TEAM

From Page 40

because of Saipan's heat.

"Looked a little scruffy so you know what…I wanted to look sharp on the court and you look good, you play good. It's also a bit too hot so I wanted to cool my head a little bit."

Schorr, for his part, said nothing compares to competing in front of the home crowd.

"It feels good to be playing here at home with the support of friends and family. It's amazing and you can't ask for anything more."

Like Sinclair, he said he just played his usual game and didn't want his opponent to get any kind of confidence.

"I just played my game, was consistent, and used my forehand. I just made the first move and put the ball on the defensive end. Matches go by very quickly and in a couple of minutes you lose a set so you have to be focused right from the get-go," he said.

On the women's side, Asia Raulerson and Isabel Herras won their singles matches before teaming up in the doubles to give Team NMI a 3-0 against Solomon Islands at PIC.

Raulerson got the better of Marion Hellen Gaote'E, 4-0, 4-0, while Herras took care of business against Zorika Dalice Morgan, 4-1, 5-4.

The NMI women then clinched the tie with a hard-earned 5-3, 4-1 win over Morgan and Chloe Vazeriko Collinson.

The CNMI National Tennis Team is coached by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race and the other members of the team are Bobby Cruz, Hye Jin Elliott, and Serin Chung.

EILEEN

From Page 40

out there:

"If you have a dream don't give up too easily. If you have a dream, chase it until you grab it with your two hands. If there's an opportunity grab it straight away and don't waste it and regret it late because opportunity only comes once in a lifetime. If you believe you can do it, then do it. If you don't believe you can do it, then you won't be able to achieve it."

MINI

From Page 40

School ROTC, the U.S. and CNMI anthems will be sung.

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez will deliver the invocation with *va'a's* Kaya Rain Rasa and baseball's Antonio Rogolifoi reading the athlete's and technical official's oath, respectively.

Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will then deliver the opening remarks.

The Mini Games torch relay will then conclude the ceremony with weightlifting's Antonette Labausa, Tarkong, triathlon's Leo Wania, tennis' Bobby Cruz, golf's J.J. Atalig, NMSA's Laurie Peterka, baseball's Tyrone Omar, and badminton's Nate Guerrero making up the team.

The last leg of the relay and the one who would lit the Mini Games cauldron will be Dr. Kurt Barnes, an NMI Sports Hall of Famer and one of the organizers of the 1969 Micronsian Olympics, which is the precursor of the Micronesian Games.

"Humbled to be chosen to light the eternal flame," said Barnes, who flew especially back from California to fulfill the honor.

Athletic scholarship

Three days before the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vowed to establish a scholarship program for CNMI athletes.

"I want to acknowledge all of the sports and because of all the things that you've done I've created a scholarship program for all athletes going abroad and staying here. So, I'm making a shoutout to all of you," he said during the Team Presentation event last Tuesday at the Saipan World Resort.

He also said being part of the CNMI's first hosting of the Mini Games is a legacy for local athletes taking part in the Games.

"Everyone in this room you represent the CNMI and 10 years and 15 years from now you will be in the history books of the CNMI. I want to thank you on behalf of my wife, Diann, for representing the CNMI.

Torres added that the double of whappy of super typhoons Soudelor in 2015 and Yutu in 2018 almost torpedoed the Commonwealth's first-ever hosting of the Mini Games.

"But you know what made us do it, it's you guys—all of you! It sounds corny but it's true because you represent this flag that we have here."

He also said that aside from the cash incentives he promised to athletes who medal—as much as $6,000 for gold—coaches of medal-winning local athletes "won't be left behind" as the CNMI government will also be giving them a reward.

Miracle

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan said it's nothing short of a miracle the CNMI is now looking forward to the opening ceremony of the Mini Games.

He said while First World countries Japan and China were able to host the Summer and Winter Olympics recently but they were held sans foreign visitors.

"Challenge remains for everyone who wants to host," adding that just like the CNMI delaying the Mini Games from 2021 to 2022, the Asian Games has also been delayed from this year to 2023.

Tan also said without Torres' support, the CNMI wouldn't have reversed course, and taken back the Games' hosting, while also acknowledging the NMSA board, the COVID-19 Task Force, and the Mini Games Organizing Committee for their hard work in making sure the Commonwealth would be able to deliver the Games.

"We never gave up. We knew it would all come down to the wire but we knew we would deliver the Games…You guys are representing the flag so go Team CNMI!" he said.

'Future past'

Team NMI chef de mission Bob Coldeen challenged the 125-strong CNMI delegation to make these next couple of weeks the highlight of their lives.

"You are also playing for your future past. In the future when you are ancient like me, this will be your past so you want it to be as memorable and wonderful as possible. Seize the moment and know this, not every winner gets a medal. Winning is doing the best you have ever done. Personal satisfaction is pure gold that cannot be stolen or lost or misplaced. You are your own personal gold standard."

The longtime sports broadcaster also encouraged local athletes to spread goodwill to every athlete taking part in the Games.

"Take advantage of this situation. If you get to know one person from another island, that will enhance your experience… and it will enhance their experience. Be friendly and engaging. So many times it's the little things, casual interactions, that create special moments that are the stuff of lifetime memories," he said.

Astros throw 2 immaculate innings in 9-2 win over Rangers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Fiji concedes Tahiti is team to beat

PAGE 39

Team NMI sweeps Kiribati, Solomons

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI started the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 with a flourish after the men's and women's teams swept their first round opponents yesterday at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Robbie Schorr gave Team NMI the win in the first singles match after blanking Kiribati's Benjamin Kourabi, 4-0, 4-0, at AMP.

Not to be outdone, his fellow doubles gold medalist in the Apia, Samoa Pacific Games in 2019, Colin Sinclair, also didn't drop a game in beating Aato Boari Torua, 4-0, 4-0.

Schorr then played with another Colin—Ramsey—in completing the CNMI's 3-0 win over Kiribati after the duo defeated Torua and Kourabi, 4-0, 4-2.

Sinclair, a veteran of the ITF Pro Tour, said it's always nice to win your first match in team play.

"Really good to get this under our belts and get into the tournament with a nice win against Kiribati. You want to give your opponent the respect they deserve and play your hardest," he said.

Sporting a new haircut, Sinclair said he cut his long locks

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MARK RABAGO

CNMI National Tennis Team's Colin Sinclair, left, and Asia Raulerson in action as team play of the tennis event of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 got underway yesterday.

Eileen comes to Mini Games with no expectations

MARK RABAGO

Eileen Cikamatana of Australia tries out the weightlifting equipment at the Marianas High School Gymnasium which is the site of the weightlifting competition for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Australian weightlifter Eileen Cikamatana arrived on Saipan last Wednesday in time for today's opening ceremony for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The 22-year-old gold medalist of the 2020 and 2019 International Weightlifting Federation World Cup and 2019 Grand Prix said she's coming to the Mini Games bereft of expectations.

"There's no expectations for me. My coach does all the calls and all I do is train and lift. So whatever he says goes. I don't put expectations in my mind during competition because that just doesn't work [for me]. If you put expectations on yourself and it doesn't go then you'd only be upset with yourself."

Cikamatana said instead of giving yourself expectations you might as well focus on what you can do.

"Because in training you train for this and then in competition you just give your best and everything just happens," she said with a wide grin.

A first-timer in the CNMI, Cikamatana said she's totally amazed with the islands and even her accommodations at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"It's a beautiful place and a beautiful island even though the travel was a bit complicated, at least we made it. PIC Saipan is a beautiful place and I'm enjoying my stay there and I got a good night's sleep last night especially since the training was at 9am the next day," she said.

Cikamatana also had good things to say about the weightlifting venue at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

"Looking at the competition venue it's superb. I haven't seen such a setup and I'm impressed…Training gym was superb too, but the heat. I was telling my training partner you don't need a sauna to lose weight, you just train and you lose weight."

Cikamatana, who will compete in the women's 87-kg division, has this inspiring piece of advice for everyone

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Mini Games opening ceremony today

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

All roads will lead to the Oleai Sports Complex today as the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 unfurls at the facility's track & field.

» Torres promises scholarship program for athletes

The opening parade will be led by 2021 NMSA athletes of the year Jason Tarkong and Zarinae Sapong with the former carrying the CNMI flag and the latter the U.S. flag.

The two athletes will be followed by the ceremonial flag presentation. After benediction and posting of colors by the Marianas High

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MICHAEL JORNAL

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres holds the CNMI flag during the Team Presentation event last Tuesday at the Saipan World Resort.